■ Entertainment / A2-1
Goodbye to whole J. Lo thing; Jenny wants to be taken seriously

■ News / A2
'Raw' info says embassies, trains, malls terror targets

■ Magazine / Q1
Celia Diaz-Laurel writes her husband's unfinished book

■ Lifestyle / J4
Violy Drilon orchid collection now adorns La Mesa dam EcoPark

JOB Market
Are you looking for career growth?

Not exactly sleeping with the enemy VAT ...

NGAYON LANG YAN! TINGNAN NA LANG NATIN BUKAS!

By Volt Contreras

SEEN: Imee Marcos "partying" with Anakpawis and Bayan Muna.

"It's a tactical basis for unity." That's the politically expedient way to put it, if

NOT/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Amazing Grace' continues to amaze as Isabela gov

By Fe Zamora

DON'T be fooled by the crutches because the woman is made of sterner stuff.

When the fragile-looking and polio-stricken Grace M. Padaca became Isabela governor, her achievement was considered short of amazing. By winning over Faustino Dy Jr. in

AMAZING/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, January 30, 2005 ★★ 94 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 53 P18
website: www.inq7.net

VAT faces Senate defeat

Opposition set to close ranks with GMA allies

By Volt Contreras and Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF THINGS shape up as the opposition hopes, senators will cross party lines and close ranks to shoot down the recently approved House bill raising the value-added tax to 12 percent.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is banking on four "reelectionist" senators from the administration bloc—Joker Arroyo, Manny Villar, Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto—to side with the 9-member opposition in quashing the controversial measure.

"We're nine, plus the administration [senators] who are against it, so I think the measure will not prosper [in the 23-member Senate]," Enrile said yesterday in Filipino at the weekly Sulo Hotel forum in Quezon City.

Arroyo had earlier promised to block the passage of the measure; Villar and Pangilinan, his colleagues in the "Wednesday Club," had also expressed objections to a VAT increase.

Enrile also mentioned Pia Cayetano, Juan Flavier and even Bong Revilla as among the other "independent-minded" senators who could be expected to join forces with the opposition on the issue.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had earlier said the majority senators were committed to pass the measure. But Enrile said yesterday: "I doubt if he can hold the others [to that]."

Citing his own objections to the bill, Enrile said he would "engage [its proponents] in a lively debate."

"They have to explain why the bill that got passed was of that nature," he said, adding that he would particularly criticize the measure in the plenary deliberation for leaving out provisions on exempted industries or products and dwelling only on the rate increase.

He likened the measure to a train that had been sent out with only its engine running and without its passenger and freight cars.

Enrile said that while he saw the need to increase government revenues, he was in favor only of "expanding the coverage" of the present 10-percent VAT.

He disputed Malacañang's line that raising the VAT to 12 percent would have "minimal" impact on the cost of goods, and said the raw materials importer, sup-

VAT/ A18

WOW PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINES

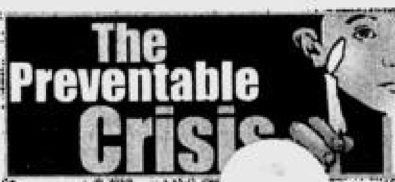
LM GUIAO PINZALAN

CITY OF OUR AFFECTIONS. An antique street lamp, albeit a reproduction, casts a warm glow on an original expanse of Sta. Lucia in the ancient Walled City of Intramuros, once the "city of our affections," now restored to a living, breathing space where commerce, culture, the arts and history pleasure both the locals and the foreign tourists.

Editors' Note. In the words of the just-resigned energy secretary, 2005 is a "make or break year" for the electric power industry. This year, new capacity must be built for Mindanao, 70 percent of Napocor must be privatized, and electricity rates must be raised to reflect true costs again. If not, then a power crisis will be upon us.

In many ways, the key issue is public reception. Will the public, already paying high rates, accept more rate increases? In a joint undertaking, the INQUIRER teamed up with Inq7.net, INQUIRER Libre, InqTV, Cebu Daily News, Tumbok and Bandera to explore the issue—and to see if the crisis is truly just around the corner.

In **Across the Nation:** Alternative sources of power /**A15**
In **Metro:** Coping with high rates in the city/**A19**
On **Inq7.net/power:** Complete archive of stories, plus documents



Make or break year for Napocor sale

By Abigail L. Ho
Business

GOVERNMENT officials, industry executives and reform advocates alike agree on one thing. This year is a pivotal year for the energy sector's privatization program. They disagree, however, on whether this is good or bad for the country.

"This year is the turning point for the sale of Napocor (National Power Corp.) assets," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes warned the other day. "That will entail higher rates [for consumers]."

"The year 2005 is a make or break year for this [privatizing Napocor]. We have to privatize it now, otherwise we'll end up borrowing more," Energy Secretary Vince Perez told the INQUIRER and InqTV. The first priority, he emphasized, was to sell the assets of Napocor and Transco, the National Transmission Co. "This is the make or break year, we cannot delay it any further."

Raphael Lotilla, who will succeed Perez at the energy department in April, noted that the "open access regime" that the government wants to implement (by 2006) requires the privatization of most of Napocor's assets. "One of the requirements under the law for open access to be available or in effect is for us to sell 70 percent of all of the generation assets of NPC. I think the concern there is that NPC should not be in a dominant position [to] undercut the other generators."

Lotilla is currently president of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Corp., or Psalm, the entity created by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) to sell Napocor.

MAKE/ A6

Enough crisis talk: Micro-hydro power plants light the way

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Enough of crisis talk.

Can citizens do something about electricity on their own? The example of some remote communities in the Cordilleras, involving the use of micro-hydroelectricity, provides both inspiration and illumination.

Still barely explored, micro-hydro power plants (those with 7.5 to 35 kW capacity) don't need big, controversial dams to operate.

In fact, a small spring—as the INQUIRER saw in Barangay Buneg, Conner, Apayao and in Barangay Lon-oy,

ENOUGH/ A6

في وجه الظلم والتخلف
في وجه الظلم والتخلف

ELECTORAL posters of candidates for the first Iraqi elections in 50 years cover a cement barrier in front of a police station in Baghdad. The US military has increased its visibility in the streets ahead of national elections today as the threat of reprisals from insurgents opposed to the democratic process has forced voters to go underground.

AP

A SECRET AFFAIR

Iraq holding elections today but do not tell anybody

BAGHDAD—Iraq is holding historic elections today, but don't tell anybody.

Campaigning in most sensitive areas in the first democratic Iraqi election for more than 50 years and the first since US-led forces ousted dictator Saddam Hussein 22 months ago has been like a covert operation.

In many violence-wracked places, including neighborhoods of the capital, violent death at the hands of insurgents fiercely opposed to democratic polls can be the instant reward for voters, candidates and security forces alike.

The threat of reprisals has forced all those wishing to take part in the electoral process to go underground, turning the much-anticipated internationally-backed elections into an almost clandestine affair.

"I find these elections so strange. I have no knowledge of any previous elections anywhere in the world ever taking place in such circumstances," said Nasser Chaderchi, who heads the National Democratic Party.

The locations of the polling centers were also disclosed at the last minute, and the staff shipping and setting up the electoral equipment covered their heads with keffiyehs.

"I call them the secret elections," said Chaderchi, a moderate Sunni who was one of the leading voices calling for the historic polls to be postponed until some degree of stability had been restored.

About 300,000 Iraqi, American and other multinational troops and police will provide security for 5,300 polling centers.

Voters will choose a 275-member National Assembly that will draw up a new

IRAQ/ A18

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHIONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/01/30/05

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
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By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE authorities have ordered beefed-up security at three foreign embassies in Metro Manila after receiving "raw information" that the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front was planning to bomb these establishments.

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The memo said the MRT and LRT rail systems and several unnamed "big malls" were also targets.

Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, stressed, however, that the information contained in the memorandum had yet to be verified.

"We're still verifying that. That is still raw information," he said in a phone interview.

Razon said he issued the memorandum on which the WPD memorandum was based so police units in Metro Manila could strengthen security measures to neutralize the threat.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, described the bomb threat as incredible.

"We have no interest whatsoever in bombing these embassies. What would we gain from this?" Kabalu said.

He said the report could be "part of an effort to destroy the credibility of the MILF now that we are about to resume the peace talks."

Kabalu's call

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A Muslim civil society leader, Nasser Pangadapun, dismissed the bomb threat as "poor, recycled intelligence meant to sow fear and tension, and even jeopardize the resumption of the peace talks on Feb. 5."

Negotiations with the MILF to end the decades-old separatist conflict in Mindanao are set to resume in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Feb. 5.

The talks "could be cancelled depending on the situation on the ground," said Pangadapun, secretary general of the Maradeka civil society group which was nominated by the MILF to be its "observer" in the talks.

Poor intelligence

"These information are products of poor intelligence which are recycled whenever there are plans to resume the peace talks between the government and the Moro separatists," Pangadapun said.

He said reports like these only served to increase tension in the Muslim communities which are "already suffering from human rights abuses."

The Jan. 28 WPD memorandum, signed by operations head Chief Insp. Ricardo Layug, said the MILF's Special Operations Group was behind the bomb threat.

The WPD directed its operatives to conduct "target-hardening" measures to ensure that the attack was thwarted.

With eyes open

Members of the mobile patrol, motorcycle reaction unit teams, beat patrol and operatives from the district offices, stations and precincts were told to keep their eyes open for possible terror suspects.

Layug said police visibility would be stepped up around the targeted embassies and 37 checkpoints would be put up in vital areas.

Whenever terror threats arise, the WPD also increases security around such critical areas as Malacañang and the Pandacan oil depot. *With a report from the PDI Mindanao Bureau and Fe Zamora*

Riyadh tightens security ahead of antiterror meet

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—The Saudi government has stepped up security as Riyadh prepares to host next week a global antiterror summit that is being dubbed as the first worldwide conference against terror organizations.

The conference is expected to draw high-level representation from the G-7 industrialized countries like the United States, Britain, France, Russia and Germany.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to fly to Riyadh to join the leaders of 48 other countries.

Prince Turki Ibn Muhammad, deputy political affairs undersecretary in the foreign ministry, would not go into detail about the security preparations in the Saudi capital during a television interview.

But even in this bustling trading city, policemen with machine guns could be seen everywhere checking on vehicles.

Saudi Arabia, regarded as having one of the most conservative Islamic governments, has not been spared from attack by Muslim militants.

Turki said that Saudi Arabia would be telling the conference about the efforts it was taking to combat terror, said to be perpetrated by a group identified with the al-Qaida international terror network.

He said the fight against terrorism would not succeed if the countries affected were to work together.

"We all have suffered from terrorism and to face it, there should be a joint international effort," he said.

He stressed that confronting terrorism should not be confined to dismantling militant groups by military force alone but also by going into its root causes.

"We have to address the reasons that lead to the spread of this dangerous phenomenon," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

We're not coddling CAP, says SEC chief

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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An SEC oversight committee had recommended on Sept. 30, 2004, the closure of CAP after the pre-need firm was found to be insolvent.

But the SEC is wary of shutting CAP down due to the possible adverse impact on its over 780,000 planholders whose education depend on CAP's continued operations.

Barin had warned that putting CAP under receivership would place thousands of planholders at the losing end.

To address its cash flow problems, CAP is negotiating a $300-million loan with Nevada-registered fund First American Investments.

CAP also plans to raise its capital from P300 million to P8 billion through a property-for-share swap involving 2,900 hectares owned by Green Circle and Green Square Properties of the Roxas group.

A unit at the SEC said the valuation should be based on the fair market value of the properties. CAP cited an appraisal by the Cuervo group that pegged the value of the properties at P6 billion.

But a SEC accountant questioned Cuervo's method in valuing the properties.

"I don't know the basis of Cuervo's hypothetical development approach used in appraising the property. I had thought that the projected income that should be used would be the income that the property would earn at its present state (from future rent or capital appreciation) and not based on major improvements on the property," SEC's general accountant said.

The accountant said CAP might be in serious violation of international accounting standards if it did not abide by fair market values.

CAP has already submitted to the SEC its application to swap shares for the property assets of Green Square Properties and Green Circle Properties and Resources. SEC approval of CAP's application, however, is still pending.

The two companies headed by lawyer Romeo Roxas want to subscribe to P6 billion worth of CAP shares in exchange for parcels of land in Baler, Aurora, near Dingalan Bay. CAP said the properties had clean titles.

arts
festivals
crafts

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

Calendar of festivals and events
FEBRUARY: NATIONAL ARTS MONTH
2005

CALENDAR OF MAJOR FESTIVALS

PABIRIK FESTIVAL
February 1-2 • Paracale, Camarines Norte
A festival that is highlighted by the "Pabirik" street dancing, depicting the gold mining industry in the province.
Contact: Office of the Mayor, Paracale, Camarines Norte c/o DOT Regional Office V

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF CANDLES
February 2 • Jaro, Iloilo City
The biggest and most opulent religious pageantry in Western Visayas with the blessing of candles and a procession of the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria and the Fiesta Queen and her court.
Contact: Msgr. Jose M. Gamboa Tel No. 033-337-2575 • DOT Regional Office VI

PAMULINAWEN
February 2-10 • Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
The word means "Ilocano Maiden", a festival showcasing Ilocano Customs and Virtues. Activities include street pageantry, Calesa Festival, Komedya Ilocano, Balikbayan Nights, Search for Miss Laoag
Contact: Laoag City Tourism Council Tel. No. 077-773-1676 • DOT Regional Office Region I

THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO ORGAN FESTIVAL
February 3-11 • Las Piñas City
A festival held yearly at the St. Joseph Parish in Las Piñas City where international organists are invited to participate. To date, the bamboo organ is praised for its unique, rare and melodiuos sound. Concerts are also held in celebration of the festival. This years edition of the festival will be distinguished by performances of international and local artists. An evening of Filipino compositions entitled "Fiesta Musika" will also be presented.
Contact: Bamboo Organ Foundation, Inc. Tel. No. 826-7718 / 826-1856 Fax No. 829-8503 • DOT NCR

FIESTA TSINOY
February 6 • Legaspi City
Chinese New Year Celebration featuring activities like Dragon • Lion Dance, Chinese Cultural Program and others.
Contact: Mr Tony Tan • DOT Regional Office Region V

SALAKAYAN FESTIVAL
1st week of February • Miagao, Iloilo
A week-long festival and cultural presentation of Miag-ao with food fair, agro-industrial and trade fair, photo exhibit and many more. Also with the highlight, the Salakayan Contest - a street drama depicting the battle of local defenders against the moro marauders.
Contact: Mayor Gerardo Flores or Nicolas F. Moragas Tel No. 033-315-8050 • DOT Regional Office Region VI

9TH PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FIESTA
February 10-13 • Omni Aviation Complex, Clark Field, Pampanga
Held on the second week of February, the annual festival features air-sporting events like aircraft manouvers and precision flying, ultra lights, helicopters, sky diving, RC demonstration flying, motorcycle versus airplane. This year 25 hot air balloons from all over the world is certain to draw thousands of people to Clark Field.
Contact: Raidis Plateros • CDC Marketing office Tel No. 045-599-2043

AURORA DAY AND SUMAN FESTIVAL
February 14-19 • Baler, Aurora
Celebration of the foundation of the province of Aurora which is celebrated on the very day of birth of the Late Lady Aurora Quezon that coincide with the grandest festival, the Suman Festival.
Contact: Aurora Provincial Tourism Office Tel. No. 042-209-4373 • DOT Regional Office Region IV

KAP'YAAN FESTIVAL
February 18-20 • Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur
Founding Anniversary of the creation of the municipality; agri-trade fair and civic military parade
Contact: DOT Regional Office XI

KALILANGAN FESTIVAL
February 19-27 • General Santos City
An institutionalized festival that highlights the 66th foundation anniversary of General Santos city.
Contact: Kalilangan Foundation, Inc. Tel. 083-5549678

PANAGBENGA FESTIVAL 2005
February 26-27 • Baguio City
This will be the 10th holding of the "Baguio Flower Festival" which will showcase the City of Baguio as a City of Flowers. The Floral Street Parade will be on February 26 and the Floral Float Parade on February 27.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for CAR

FESTIVAL OF HEARTS
February • Tanjay City, Negros Oriental
In celebration of Valentines, the city tourism council of Tanjay is coming up with a festival of romance showcasing a nightly Harana, Baile ng Bayan, Mass Weddings • Renewal of Vows and coronation of Search for Miss Valentines
Contact: Mr. Bobbit Ramirez Tel. No. 035-415-8456 • DOT Regional Office Region VII

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

12TH TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2005 - "THE POWER OF TRAVEL"
February 4, 5 and 6 • Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
The Chinese community celebrates the Chinese New Year with pomp & color through a dragon dance.
Contact: Ms. Lucille M. Chabeldin, Overall Chairperson, Travel Tour Expo 2005 • PTAA 632-552-0026 - 29

CHINESE NEW YEAR
February 9 • Region-wide
The Chinese community celebrates the Chinese New Year with pomp & color through a dragon dance.
Contact: DOT Regional Office Region VII

ILOILO PARAW REGATTA
February 19-20 (Every 3rd weekend of February) • Iloilo City
An exciting race among outriggers in the strait between Guimaras and Iloilo City.
Contact: Mr. Manuel Villa • DOT Regional Office Region VI

MUTYA NG CARAGA
February 20 • Urios College Gym, Butuan City
This beauty search is one of the highlights of the annual celebration of the founding of the Caraga Region.
Contact: Ms. Liwliwa Eguerra, City Tourism Officer, Tel. No. 085-225-4041 or Fax No. 085-342-7729

3RD MINDANAO DIVE CONGRESS • FIESTA
February 24-25 • Davao City Samal
A gathering of diving enthusiasts, promotion of dive areas, exhibits, fun dives, aqua sports competition, scubasura; discovery dive; scuba lessons; concert for a cause; dive safari
Contact: Regional Office XI

CEBU X INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS EXHIBITION
4th week of February • Cebu City, Cebu
With Cebu X promoting Cebu as the Design Destination in Asia, an exhibition is scheduled by the end of February showcasing Asia's best furniture designs expertly executed by master craftsmen.
Contact: CFIF Office 032-253-3091 or 032-253-7074 • DOT Regional Office Region VII

SUROY SA SURIGAO (GUIDED TOURS)
February • Surigao City
A promotional program that explores the best of Surigao City thru island hopping adventure, cave exploration and canoeing to the lush mangrove areas and other interesting sites in the said province.
Contact: Ms. Roselyn Merlin, City Tourism Officer, Tel. #: 086-826-8064

NATIONAL ARTS MONTH ACTIVITIES

BICOL ARTS FESTIVAL
February 1-28 • Legazpi City
A week-long festival showcasing the region's arts and culture, crafts and agro-industrial products coming from the Six (6) provinces and Three (3) cities of Bicol. It coincides with the celebration of the National Arts Month every February.
Contact: Dr. Ramona B. Rañeses, Dean Graduate School, Bicol University, Legazpi City, Telefax: 052-480-1454

SINING GISING: CRAFTING IDENTITIES FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
February 7-25 • Provincial Capitol Lobby, Misamis Oriental
An exhibit of Metropolitan Museum Paintings in coordination with the NCCA and Misamis Oriental Arts, Culture and Tourism Council
Contact: DOT Regional Office X

KALAHI CULTURAL SERVICES OUTREACH PROGRAM
Outreach program in 28 of the poorest provinces in the country through the "KALAHI Theatre Arts Program" in conjunction with NAPC, DSWD, DILG with the DIALECT - Earthsavers • International Theater Institute Philippine Center.
Contact: NCCA

FLAG CEREMONY WITH FEATURED PERFORMANCES OF NATIONAL ARTISTS
All Mondays of February • Malacañang Palace
Featured performances of National Artists during all Mondays of February at Malacañang Palace, and exhibit of winners of NAM contests at the Malacañang Museum.
Contact: NCCA

GAWAD MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN (GAMABA) AWARD
Ceremony in Malacañang presided by President Arroyo
Contact: NCCA

SINING SALABATAN
Cultural exhibits at the Senate, House of Representatives and the Supreme Court
Contact: NCCA

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A 2 - part documentary mini-series for television including the ITI • Earthsavers design concept of an "artists' village" to provide housing for artists.
Contact: NCCA

NCCA OPEN HOUSE
Featuring film screenings, master classes in composition, folk heritage, visual arts, martial arts, rondalla, dance and chorale training among disadvantaged youth and senior citizens.
Contact: NCCA

SAYAW PINOY
A nationwide dance concert of various dance forms.
Contact: NCCA

CINEMA PARAISO 3
Focusing on new techniques, advancements and technologies in filmmaking.
Contact: NCCA

Note: Contact DOT Regional Offices for list of other festivals and events and the NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCAA) for a list of other activities for the National Arts Month.

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL DOT Regional Offices:
NCR 524-2345; Region I Tel No: (072) 888-2411; Region II Tel No: (078) 844-1621;
Region III Tel No: (045) 961-2665; Region IV Tel No: 524-1909; Region V Tel No: (052) 820-3664
Region VI Tel No: (033) 337-5411; Region VII Tel No: (032) 254-2811; Region VIII Tel No: (053) 321-2048;
Region IX Tel No: (062) 991-0218; Region X Tel No: (08822) 726-394; Region XI Tel No: (082) 221-6955;
Region XII Tel No: (064) 421-1110; Region XIII Tel No: (085) 341-8413;
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Tel No: (074) 442-7014
National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Tel No: 527-2192 locals 612-611
email: info@ncca.gov.ph

I ♥ PHILIPPINES
BIYAHE NA!
WOW PHILIPPINES

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

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COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/01/30/05

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Barin had warned that putting CAP under receivership would place thousands of planholders at the losing end.

To address its cash flow problems, CAP is negotiating a $300-million loan with Nevada-registered fund First American Investments.

CAP also plans to raise its capital from P300 million to P8 billion through a property-for-share swap involving 2,900 hectares owned by Green Circle and Green Square Properties of the Roxas group.

A unit at the SEC said the valuation should be based on the fair market value of the properties. CAP cited an appraisal by the Cuervo group that pegged the value of the properties at P6 billion.

But a SEC accountant questioned Cuervo's method in valuing the properties.

"I don't know the basis of Cuervo's hypothetical development approach used in appraising the property. I had thought that the projected income that should be used would be the income that the property would earn at its present state (from future rent or capital appreciation) and not based on major improvements on the property," SEC's general accountant said.

The accountant said CAP might be in serious violation of international accounting standards if it did not abide by fair market values.

CAP has already submitted to the SEC its application to swap shares for the property assets of Green Square Properties and Green Circle Properties and Resources. SEC approval of CAP's application, however, is still pending.

The two companies headed by lawyer Romeo Roxas want to subscribe to P6 billion worth of CAP shares in exchange for parcels of land in Baler, Aurora, near Dingalan Bay. CAP said the properties had clean titles.

Riyadh tightens security ahead of antiterror meet

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—The Saudi government has stepped up security as Riyadh prepares to host next week a global antiterror summit that is being dubbed as the first worldwide conference against terror organizations.

The conference is expected to draw high-level representation from the G-7 industrialized countries like the United States, Britain, France, Russia and Germany.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to fly to Riyadh to join the leaders of 48 other countries.

Prince Turki Ibn Muhammad, deputy political affairs undersecretary in the foreign ministry, would not go into detail about the security preparations in the Saudi capital during a television interview.

But even in this bustling trading city, policemen with machine guns could be seen everywhere checking on vehicles.

Saudi Arabia, regarded as having one of the most conservative Islamic governments, has not been spared from attack by Muslim militants.

Turki said that Saudi Arabia would be telling the conference about the efforts it was taking to combat terror, said to be perpetrated by a group identified with the al-Qaida international terror network.

He said the fight against terrorism would not succeed if the countries affected were to work together.

"We all have suffered from terrorism and to face it, there should be a joint international effort," he said.

He stressed that confronting terrorism should not be confined to dismantling militant groups by military force alone but also by going into its root causes.

"We have to address the reasons that lead to the spread of this dangerous phenomenon," he said. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

arts
festivals
crafts

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

Calendar of festivals and events
FEBRUARY: NATIONAL ARTS MONTH 2005

CALENDAR OF MAJOR FESTIVALS

PABIRIK FESTIVAL
February 1-2 • Paracale, Camarines Norte
A festival that is highlighted by the "Pabirik" street dancing, depicting the gold mining industry in the province.
Contact: Office of the Mayor, Paracale, Camarines Norte c/o DOT Regional Office V

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF CANDLES
February 2 • Jaro, Iloilo City
The biggest and most opulent religious pageantry in Western Visayas with the blessing of candles and a procession of the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria and the Fiesta Queen and her court.
Contact: Msgr. Jose M. Gamboa Tel No. 033-337-2575 • DOT Regional Office VI

PAMULINAWEN
February 2-10 • Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
The word means "Ilocano Maiden", a festival showcasing Ilocano Customs and Virtues. Activities include street pageantry, Calesa Festival, Komedya Ilocano, Balikbayan Nights, Search for Miss Laoag
Contact: Laoag City Tourism Council Tel. No. 077-773-1676 • DOT Regional Office Region I

THE 30TH INTERNATIONAL BAMBOO ORGAN FESTIVAL
February 3-11 • Las Piñas City
A festival held yearly at the St. Joseph Parish in Las Piñas City where international organists are invited to participate. To date, the bamboo organ is praised for its unique, rare and melodiuos sound. Concerts are also held in celebration of the festival. This years edition of the festival will be distinguished by performances of international and local artists. An evening of Filipino compositions entitled "Fiesta Musika" will also be presented.
Contact: Bamboo Organ Foundation, Inc. Tel. No. 826-7718 / 826-1856 Fax No. 829-8503 • DOT NCR

FIESTA TSINOY
February 6 • Legaspi City
Chinese New Year Celebration featuring activities like Dragon • Lion Dance, Chinese Cultural Program and others.
Contact: Mr Tony Tan • DOT Regional Office Region V

SALAKAYAN FESTIVAL
1st week of February • Miagao, Iloilo
A week-long festival and cultural presentation of Miag-ao with food fair, agro-industrial and trade fair, photo exhibit and many more. Also with the highlight, the Salakayan Contest - a street drama depicting the battle of local defenders against the moro marauders.
Contact: Mayor Gerardo Flores or Nicolas F. Moragas Tel No. 033-315-8050 • DOT Regional Office Region VI

9TH PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FIESTA
February 10-13 • Omni Aviation Complex, Clark Field, Pampanga
Held on the second week of February, the annual festival features air-sporting events like aircraft manouvers and precision flying, ultra lights, helicopters, sky diving, RC demonstration flying, motorcycle versus airplane. This year 25 hot air balloons from all over the world is certain to draw thousands of people to Clark Field.
Contact: Roidis Plateros • CDC Marketing office Tel No. 045-599-2043

AURORA DAY AND SUMAN FESTIVAL
February 14-19 • Baler, Aurora
Celebration of the foundation of the province of Aurora which is celebrated on the very day of birth of the Late Lady Aurora Quezon that coincide with the grandest festival, the Suman Festival.
Contact: Aurora Provincial Tourism Office Tel. No. 042-209-4373 • DOT Regional Office Region IV

KAP'YAAN FESTIVAL
February 18-20 • Jose Abad Santos, Davao del Sur
Founding Anniversary of the creation of the municipality; agri-trade fair and civic military parade
Contact: DOT Regional Office XI

KALILANGAN FESTIVAL
February 19-27 • General Santos City
An institutionalized festival that highlights the 66th foundation anniversary of General Santos city.
Contact: Kalilangan Foundation, Inc Tel. 083-5549678

PANAGBENGA FESTIVAL 2005
February 26-27 • Baguio City
This will be the 10th holding of the "Baguio Flower Festival" which will showcase the City of Baguio as a City of Flowers. The Floral Street Parade will be on February 26 and the Floral Float Parade on February 27.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for CAR

FESTIVAL OF HEARTS
February • Tanjay City, Negros Oriental
In celebration of Valentines, the city tourism council of Tanjay is coming up with a festival of romance showcasing a nightly Harana, Baile ng Bayan, Mass Weddings • Renewal of Vows and coronation of Search for Miss Valentines
Contact: Mr. Bobbit Ramirez Tel. No. 035-415-8456 • DOT Regional Office Region VII

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

12TH TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2005 - "THE POWER OF TRAVEL"
February 4, 5 and 6 • Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
The Chinese community celebrates the Chinese New Year with pomp & color through a dragon dance.
Contact: Ms. Lucille M. Chabeldin, Overall Chairperson, Travel Tour Expo 2005 • PTAA 632-552-0026 - 29

CHINESE NEW YEAR
February 9 • Region-wide
The Chinese community celebrates the Chinese New Year with pomp & color, through a dragon dance.
Contact: DOT Regional Office Region VII

ILOILO PARAW REGATTA
February 19-20 (Every 3rd weekend of February) • Iloilo City
An exciting race among outriggers in the strait between Guimaras and Iloilo City.
Contact: Mr. Manuel Villa • DOT Regional Office Region VI

MUTYA NG CARAGA
February 20 • Urios College Gym, Butuan City
This beauty search is one of the highlights of the annual celebration of the founding of the Caraga Region.
Contact: Ms. Liwliwa Esguerra, City Tourism Officer, Tel. No. 085-225-4041 or Fax No. 085-342-7729

3RD MINDANAO DIVE CONGRESS • FIESTA
February 24-25 • Davao City Samal
A gathering of diving enthusiasts, promotion of dive areas, exhibits, fun dives, aqua sports competition, scubasura; discovery dive; scuba lessons; concert for a cause; dive safari
Contact: Regional Office XI

CEBU X INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS EXHIBITION
4th week of February • Cebu City, Cebu
With Cebu X promoting Cebu as the Design Destination in Asia, an exhibition is scheduled by the end of February showcasing Asia's best furniture designs expertly executed by master craftsmen.
Contact: CFIF Office 032-253-3091 or 032-253-7074 • DOT Regional Office Region VII

SUROY SA SURIGAO (GUIDED TOURS)
February • Surigao City
A promotional program that explores the best of Surigao City thru island hopping adventure, cave exploration and canoeing to the lush mangrove areas and other interesting sites in the said province.
Contact: Ms. Roselyn Merlin, City Tourism Officer, Tel. #: 086-826-8064

NATIONAL ARTS MONTH ACTIVITIES

BICOL ARTS FESTIVAL
February 1-28 • Legazpi City
A week-long festival showcasing the region's arts and culture, crafts and agro-industrial products coming from the Six (6) provinces and Three (3) cities of Bicol. It coincides with the celebration of the National Arts Month every February.
Contact: Dr. Ramiano B. Rañeses, Dean Graduate School, Bicol University, Legazpi City, Telefax: 052-480-1454

SINING GISING: CRAFTING IDENTITIES FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
February 7-25 • Provincial Capitol Lobby, Misamis Oriental
An exhibit of Metropolitan Museum Paintings in coordination with the NCCA and Misamis Oriental Arts, Culture and Tourism Council
Contact: DOT Regional Office X

KALAHI CULTURAL SERVICES OUTREACH PROGRAM
Outreach program in 28 of the poorest provinces in the country through the "KALAHI Theatre Arts Program" in conjunction with NAPC, DSWD, DILG with the DIALECT - Earthsavers • International Theater Institute Philippine Center.
Contact: NCCA

FLAG CEREMONY WITH FEATURED PERFORMANCES OF NATIONAL ARTISTS
All Mondays of February • Malacañang Palace
Featured performances of National Artists during all Mondays of February at Malacañang Palace, and exhibit of winners of NAM contests at the Malacañang Museum.
Contact: NCCA

GAWAD MANLILIKHA NG BAYAN (GAMABA) AWARD
Ceremony in Malacañang presided by President Arroyo
Contact: NCCA

SINING SALABATAN
Cultural exhibits at the Senate, House of Representatives and the Supreme Court
Contact: NCCA

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
A 2 - part documentary mini-series for television including the ITI • Earthsavers design concept of an "artists' village" to provide housing for artists.
Contact: NCCA

NCCA OPEN HOUSE
Featuring film screenings, master classes in composition, folk heritage, visual arts, martial arts, rondalla, dance and chorale training among disadvantaged youth and senior citizens
Contact: NCCA

SAYAW PINOY
A nationwide dance concert of various dance forms.
Contact: NCCA

CINEMA PARAISO 3
Focusing on new techniques, advancements and technologies in filmmaking.
Contact: NCCA

Note: Contact DOT Regional Offices for list of other festivals and events and the NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCAA) for a list of other activities for the National Arts Month.

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL DOT Regional Offices:
NCR 524-2345; Region I Tel No: (072) 888-2411; Region II Tel No: (078) 844-1621;
Region III Tel No: (045) 961-2665; Region IV Tel No: 524-1969; Region V Tel No: (052) 820-3664
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Region IX Tel No: (062) 991-0218; Region X Tel No: (08822) 726-394, Region XI Tel No: (082) 221-6955;
Region XII Tel No: (064) 421-1110; Region XIII Tel No: (085) 341-8413;
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Tel No: (074) 442-7014
National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Tel No: 527-2192 locals 612-611
email: info@ncca.gov.ph

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House bill filed giving comfort women P̶5M each

A TOTAL of 185 surviving comfort women will each get P500,000 under proposed legislation that would allow the government to advance the payments to them while their legal battle for compensation from Japan is awaiting resolution.

Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez, the measure's proponent, urged House members to speed up passage of the bill while the comfort women were still alive. Most of them are in their '80s.

He proposed a ballpark figure of P92 million to fund the bill to compensate the comfort women, the term used to refer to women from the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries who were forced to be sex slaves of Japanese soldiers during World War II.

"*Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo?*(Of what use is the money if they're already dead)," said Golez, using a Filipino adage to stress the urgency of the measure at a packed public hearing conducted by the House committee on foreign relations.

The committee also approved two House resolutions urging Congress to support the compensation bill despite the apprehensions of officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice and the Commission on Human Rights.

The committee chair, Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, immediately referred the resolutions for plenary approval.

Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes warned committee members that approving the resolutions could have serious repercussions on diplomatic and trade relations with Japan.

He said the Philippines must be "sensitive" to the feelings of Japan, which he said has been the country's "most gracious" and biggest donor of development funds.

Brillantes said the Philippines may already be legally barred from seeking compensation for the comfort women as the damages being sought were included in the reparations agreement with Japan shortly after the end of World War II.

But Golez said it would be unjust to let the comfort women die without the government lifting a finger to help them. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Failure to solve media killings rankles probers

By Michael B. Jaucian
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Two international journalists, who visited this city on Friday on a fact-finding mission, were dismayed by the failure of Bicol police investigators to solve the killings of media practitioners in the region, especially in Albay.

The two journalists were Gerard Noonan of International Federation of Journalists' Asia-Pacific office based in Australia and senior writer of the Sydney Morning Herald, and Rustam Fachri Mandayun of the Indonesian Journalists Association and former executive editor of Tempo, Indonesia's most influential newsweekly.

In a meeting with Albay government and police officials at the provincial capitol on Friday, Noonan and Mandayun learned that not a single case had been solved in the past seven years.

The visit of the two journalists was organized by the IFJ, and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

IFJ and NUJP representatives are on a nationwide mission to investigate the killings of Filipino journalists, particularly the failure of authorities to solve most of them.

The mission is part of the IFJ's international campaign to protect journalists worldwide.

Noonan found the explanations of Albay provincial police director Supt. Roque Ramirez and Sr. Supt. Jaime Milla, regional police information officer, frustrating.

The two police officials admitted they found it difficult to solve the killings of journalists in Albay due to lack of cooperation from witnesses.

Noonan said that with the killings still unsolved, it was very apparent that the justice system here had so many loopholes, unlike in Australia where the killings of journalists are immediately solved.

Noonan told the INQUIRER that the negative result of their investigation was very alarming.

A disappointed Mandayun said that if the police would exert their best effort to solve the cases, the media killings in the province would surely be solved and reduced or even stopped.

In the past few years, the Philippines has attracted considerable attention due to the increasing number of journalists killed.

Last year alone, 13 journalists were killed. All cases have remained unsolved.

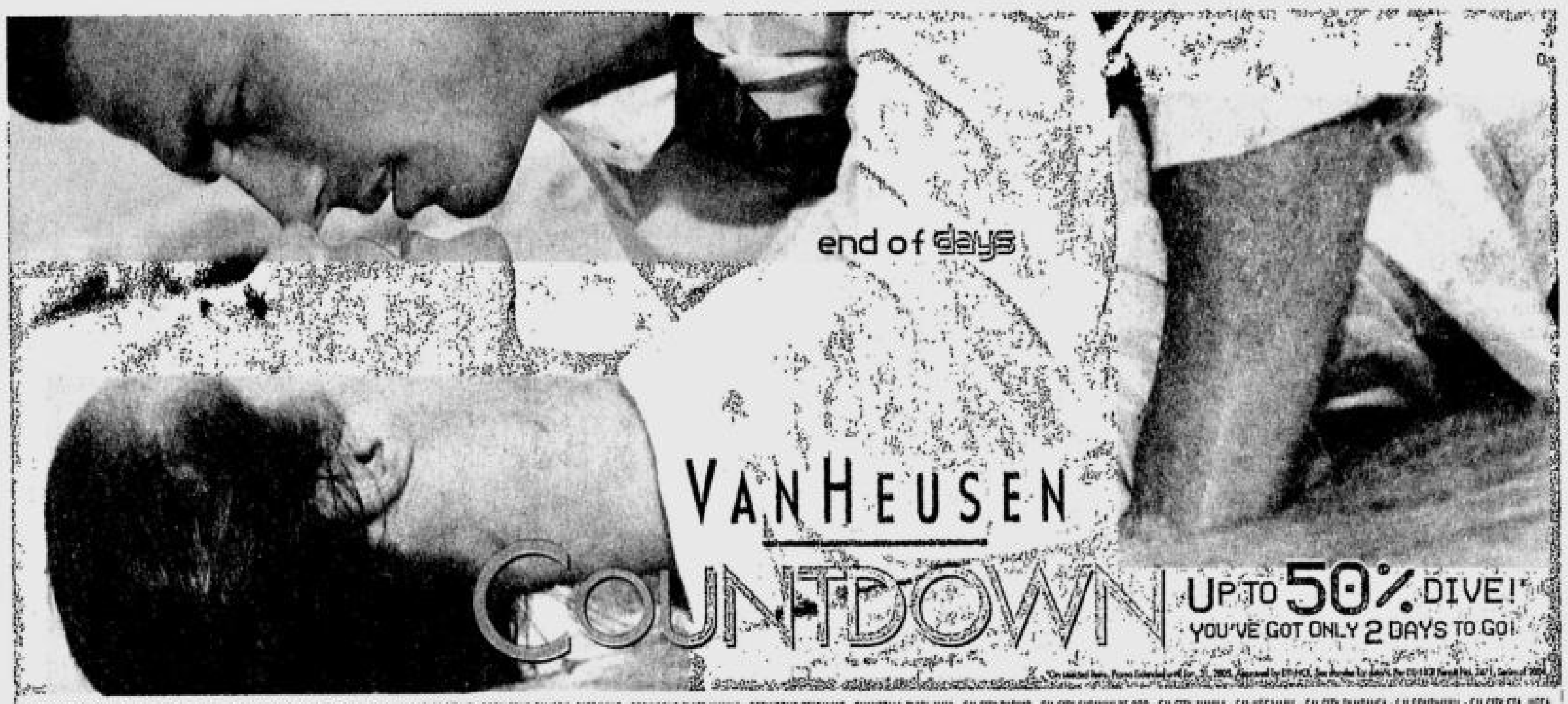
The IFJ is the world's largest organization of journalists, with more than 500,000 members, while the NUJP, IFJ's Philippine affiliate, is the country's largest union of journalists with more than 30 chapters nationwide.

Based on NUJP statistics, Albay has the most number of unsolved media killings compared to other provinces. Since 1998, at least five print and broadcast journalists have been killed.

Joy Militante, a former GMA television broadcaster, was the first victim. She was killed by an unidentified suspect in front of her apartment early one morning in 1998.

Bombo Radyo broadcaster Claire Domingo, a former New People's Army member, was shot dead after her afternoon radio program.

On April 28, 2003, John Villanueva Jr., a broadcaster at radio station dzGB and known in Albay as "Mr. Public Service," was riddled with bullets by two unidentified assailants near his home in Barangay Tagaytay in Camalig town.



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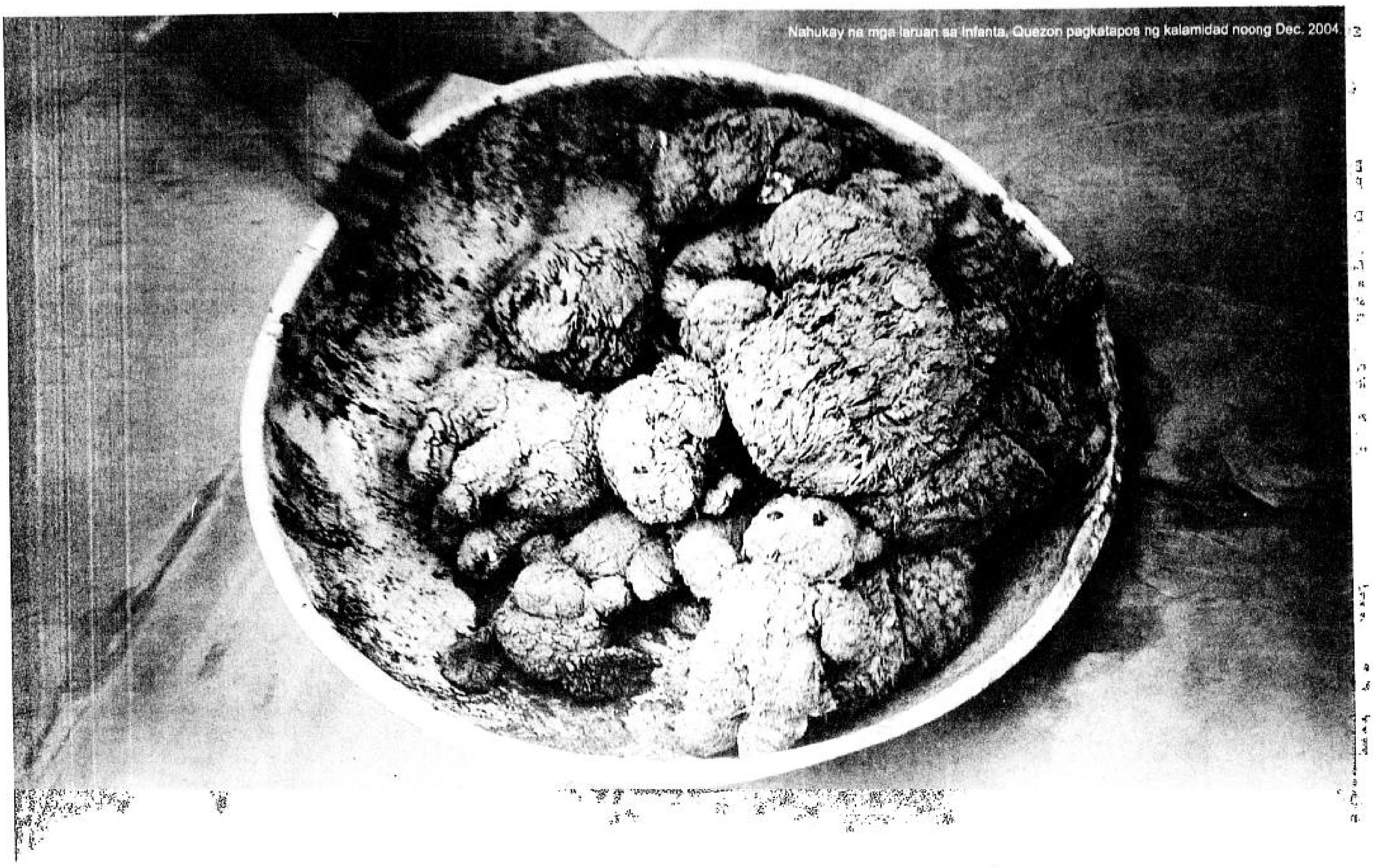

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Layunin ng kampanyang ito na makalikom ng isang milyong lagda upang maiparating ang mensahe na hindi na natin papayagan na tuluyang masira at maubos ang ating kagubatan. Gawing makabuluhan ang iyong lagda.

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This advertisement was made possible through the A-NEST for Biodiversity Conservation in the Philippines Project of the Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources.

‘Global warming bigger threat than terrorism’

By Isagani M. Yambot
Publisher

DAVOS, Switzerland—The danger from global warming is the biggest ever threat the earth is facing, scientific, government and industry experts said in sessions at the World Economic Forum the past three days.

They said the longer the delay in meaningful action on climate change, the more costly would be its economic and human impact.

Sen. John McCain (Rep., Arizona) said Tuesday he considered the danger to be “the greatest threat to our globe that we've ever experienced.” One solution, he said, might be to explore the use of nuclear power, the technology of which has advanced considerably in the last few years.

David King, chief scientific adviser of the Office of Science and Technology of the United Kingdom, said Thursday global warming was the biggest threat of this century, even bigger than terrorism.

"The amount of evidence coming in is remarkable," King said. Every week, he said, about two articles in major scientific journals offer information indicating climate change.

Already suffering

He noted that the world was already suffering the effects of global warming, and cited as an example the heat wave that caused the deaths of 31,000 people in the summer of 2003 in Europe.

"We [cannot afford] the luxury of waiting," said John P. Holdren, professor of environmental policy and director of the Science, Technology and Public Policy Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University on Wednesday.

Holdren said, "The state of science has converged substantially on clear evidence that climate is changing in significant ways and that fossil fuels' contribution is quite clearly the dominant factor."

He said recent research indicated that sea levels might rise by more than one meter over the next half century.

Jonathan Lash, president of World Resources Institute, USA, mentioned a recent report that the arctic ice sheet had lost nearly 40 meters of its thickness in just six months.

More urgent

"Certainly the drumbeat of scientific findings on climate change accelerated last year," Lash said. "The findings are driving an increased level of concern in the media and with the informed public. The problem is becoming more urgent."

Lash mentioned two dangerous climate change events that have to be avoided at all costs. These are the loss of seasonal monsoons in India and the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, both of which could be devastating, he said.

No monsoons

The loss of the monsoons would affect agriculture greatly and the people of India would suffer badly, Lash said. The melting of the Greenland ice sheet could raise sea levels by 6.5 meters and all it would take is a global temperature rise of just two percent.

He cited one proof of the impact of rising and warming seas: the start of the collapse of cod fisheries of the North Atlantic. He suggested that it was due to a decline in the cod's food, which is arctic plankton.

The plankton have moved north to escape the increased water acidity and higher sea temperatures caused by great amounts of carbon dioxide entering the oceans.

Action points

But the problem of global warming is not insoluble, the experts said. They proposed the following action points:

1. Urgent action on the international and national levels to reduce carbon emissions.
2. Development of strict international regulatory frameworks for emissions monitoring.
3. Expansion of the Group of 8 to include key developing economies, particularly China, India and Brazil, and the creation of a climate change task force.

King said the discussions in Davos could be a beginning. He said personal and cultural changes, such as hybrid cars, would have an effect on the way governments act to mitigate global warming.

Integrate issues

Daniel J. Gagnier, senior vice president for corporate and external affairs of Alcan Canada, suggested that intensive energy users could integrate environment, social and sustainability issues into their management systems to lessen their contribution to climate change.

Eileen Claussen, president of the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change, USA, said that practical chief executive officers would be looking toward carbon-reducing technologies like emission-free coal plants and hybrid cars.

US court summons Bongbong

ILOCOS Norte Gov. Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., the son of former President Ferdinand Marcos, has been ordered to appear in US federal court in Honolulu, Hawaii, during a goodwill visit there next month.

The order, issued Wednesday, allows Marcos to travel to Hawaii despite contempt-of-court charges pending against him and his mother, former First Lady Imelda Marcos. It bars him from speaking in public about pending litigation, however.

Judge Manuel Real ordered Marcos to appear in court on Feb. 7. Marcos is due to meet with Filipino communities in Hawaii and sign a sister state-province agreement with Gov. Linda Lingle during his visit on Feb. 1-8.

Real is overseeing the distribution of assets to thousands of Filipinos who won a $2-billion judgment against the Marcos estate in 1995, when a Honolulu jury found the late strongman responsible for executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year rule under martial law. The initial award has grown to $3.7 billion with interest.

Imelda Marcos and her son were found in contempt of court in 1995, after Real ruled they had violated a court order freezing their assets. They have been subjected to a fine of $100,000 a day since then.

In December, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld a previous ruling freezing the former dictator's assets that are being held in the Philippines and other banks around the world.

Ownership of the funds has been disputed since they were discovered in 1986, soon after Marcos was forced from power and fled to Hawaii. The deposits totaled about $356 million but have almost doubled from interest and later investments.

Arguments are scheduled before the 9th Circuit in March on the ownership of an additional $40 million. Last summer, Real ordered those assets used to start paying the judgment awarded in 1995, but a financial company set up by Marcos that originally held the money appealed. *AP*

Lifestyle, nutrition risks poll results due

THE RESULTS of the first nationwide survey on lifestyle and nutrition-related risk factors and diseases among Filipinos 20 years and older will be the highlight of the 10th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and the Philippine Lipid Society on Feb. 2-4 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

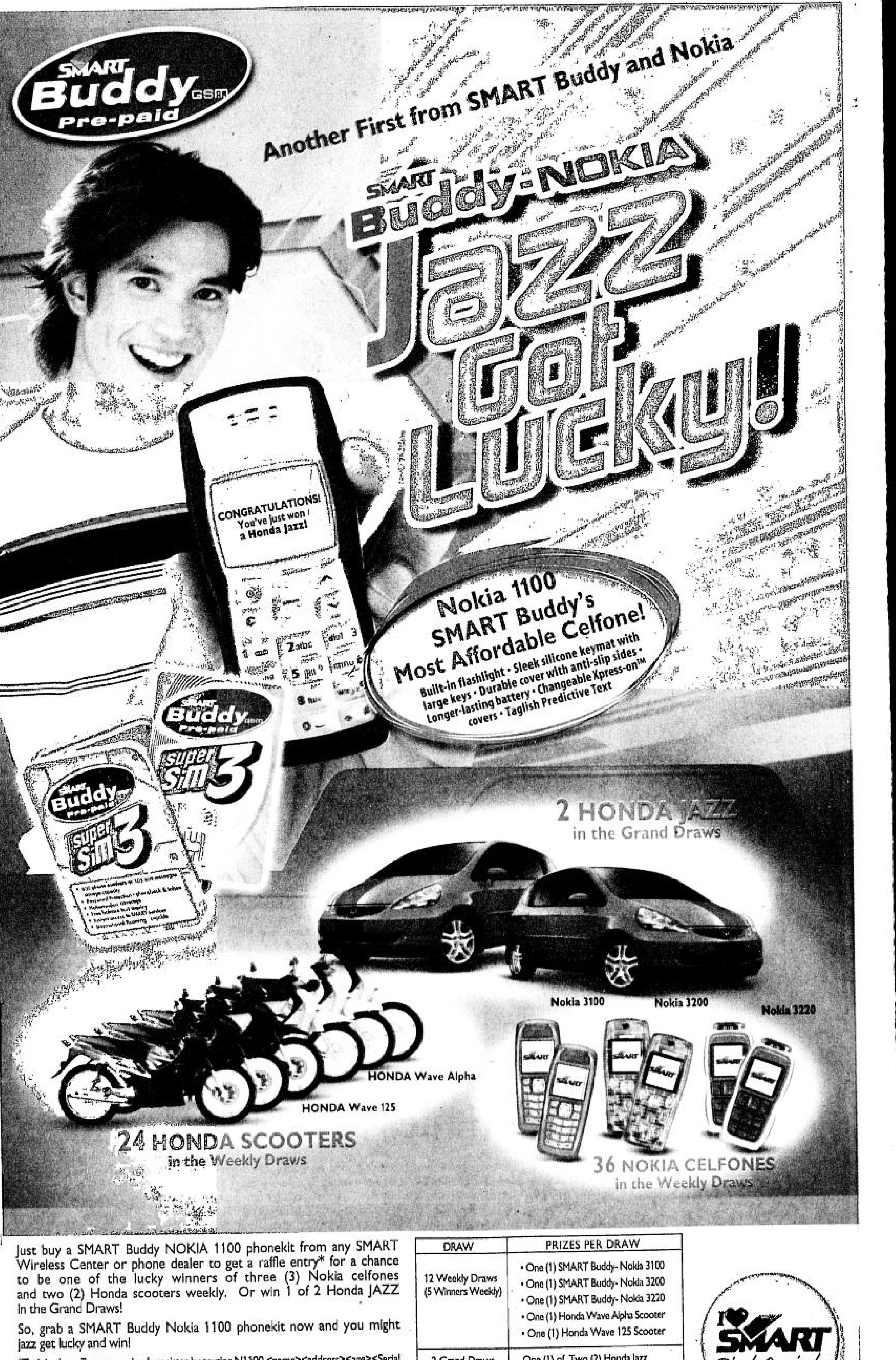
The 2003-04 National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS) was a joint public and private sector initiative and was the first ever nationwide research conducted on lifestyle habits, nutrition-related risk factors and lifestyle diseases in the Philippines. The results were said to be very revealing.

Spearheaded by the PSH, PLS, Philippine Diabetes Association, Philippine Heart Association, Department of Health and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology, the project was funded by the participating medical societies and the DOH.

The results will be presented from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb 3.

Among the topics to be discussed is "The Prevalence of Lifestyle and Nutrition-Related Cardiovascular Diseases and Risk Factors for Atherosclerosis among Adult Filipinos."

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, PSH president, said the implications of the prevalence in diagnosis and treatment as well as its comparison to foreign and previous local data would be discussed.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Crisis can be averted with political will, focus

By John Nery

IN HIS presentation before the Senate recently, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said "immediate measures must be undertaken for Mindanao" this year.

Right after the Senate briefing (where he was singed by a ballistic Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago), he explained the Mindanao situation in an interview. The looming threat of another El Niño was real, he said, but there was still time to conserve the island's hydroelectric reserves.

"So we're gonna start the El Niño contingency plan in the next three months," he said, adding in Filipino: "Before the rainy season, we will conserve water, we will use diesel plants, to pool the water in Lake Lanao. We will raise the inventory of water."

The one-page summary paper his office prepared outlined the "action plan" for Mindanao. It includes the "fast-tracking of the sole Mindanao power plant in the pipeline, the 210-MW Mindanao coal project" and the "transfer of excess capacity from Luzon to Visayas and Mindanao (barges)."

The Department of Energy has already convened an inter-agency committee "composed of all government energy agencies, private power companies and other stakeholders," and organized an El Niño task force "to handle preparations and implement action plans," Perez said.

Perez, whose resignation takes effect at the end of March, mused: "Hydroelectric power in Mindanao ... when it rains, it's good. But when there's a drought, it's a curse, it's a problem."

Political will was needed to overcome the curse, he said.

Economic growth

The scenario that has the Meralco-affiliated First Generation Holdings Corp. worried assumes a fast-growing economy.

If the gross domestic product, the total value of all goods and services produced in the country, grows by 5 percent a year, First Generation's in-house forecasts see demand for electricity overtaking reserves as early as next year.

"There is overcapacity right now, but it depends how fast demand grows. What's been happening I think [is] we are entering unchartered territory," Federico Lopez, First Generation president, said in a briefing for INQUIRER editors.

"For me, it's secondary to look at when those supply and demand [arrows] will meet. I think we have to get ready for a situation where we have to be ready [for a growing economy]."

Cocktail of measures

In case the electric power industry is not ready, Lopez proposed a cocktail of mixed measures.

The idea, in essence, is to "borrow some time," by pushing the "reckoning date for Luzon brownouts" to 2007 or 2008.

His suggestions include: temporarily reactivating decommissioned power plants (such as the one in Sucat, Parañaque); working with companies that have self-generating capacity, and "incentivizing" energy conservation.

"It is infinitely cheaper to save a megawatt than it is to build a megawatt," Lopez said. "I guess it's time that we learn to use this expensive good more efficiently and conserve it, and if we conserve on power it's a lot cheaper than to build power plants."

Focus needed

The power crisis Lopez was the first to sound the alarm on, in April last year, is actually preventable, he said. "All we need is focus."

Enough ...

From page A1

San Gabriel, La Union—has enough power to run a generator for household electricity.

Hardly accessible, Buneg and Lon-oy are among 10,000 villages not covered by the National Power Corp. grid. Under the Philippine Energy Plan, Buneg and Lon-oy are among the villages tapped to be energized by 2010. But this is only on paper.

Remote communities and non-government and Church organizations advocating micro-hydro power say they cannot wait for the government to bring electricity to them.

So, on their own, representatives of the 300 Mabaka people of Buneg got in touch with the Catholic Church and the Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya, or Sibat, a Metro Manila-based non-government organization helping install environment-friendly and community-run alternative energy facilities.

From 1996 to 2002, the Mabaka folk had provided labor and Sibat, through its engineer, the project supervision. Sibat also sourced funds from the United Nations Development Programme.

Inaugurated in January 2003, the Buneg 7.5-kW micro-hydro power plant has since been providing electricity to 36 families.

Lessons learned

Under bright fluorescent lamps, children can now study their lessons and read books while Rosalina Dangli, the community's lone public teacher, can prepare her lesson plans.

Before he calls it a day, Mabaka elder Andanan Agagen weaves rattan baskets at night, which he sells to lowland folk in Conner town.

Courtesy of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines and the community, a 15-kW micro-hydro power facility in Lon-oy has not only lit up the 130 houses of 1,000 upland farming folk. The facility has also enabled many families to make brooms for sale, even at night.

Members of an association of women in Lon-oy wake up early and start baking bread in their liquefied petroleum gas-fueled oven in their cooperative-run bakery.

And now that the electricity is flowing, the women have embarked on money-earning ventures such as processing ginger into *salabat* or ginger tea powder.

Quiet revolution

Other privately initiated micro-hydro power plants are starting a quiet industrial revolution in areas inaccessible to Napocor.

A 5-kW micro-hydro power project built in 1993 in the sub-village of Ngibat in Tinglayan, Kalinga, powers a blacksmith shop, which manufactures simple farm tools such as trowels, hoes, bolos and machetes for the 30 families in the community. It also operates a community rice mill and a vulcanizing shop.

A 30-kW micro-hydro power facility in Tulgao village, also in Tinglayan, built in 1999 also with the help of Sibat, now runs a rice mill and a sugarcane presser, which is twice faster than the carabao-drawn *dapilan* (wooden presser).

The Cordillera's various springs and tributaries offer great potential for small water-powered electricity generators, and not necessarily big dams which often bring controversy and conflict, says Sibat engineer Frank Taguba.

"And the beauty of it all is that the community folk themselves, if they're organized, can manage these facilities for their own well-being," he says.

Make or break year for Napocor sale

From page A1

But People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates or POWER, the advocacy coalition, said privatization did not serve the public interest. In a position paper first posted on www.inq7.net/power yesterday, Giovanni Tapang, Ramon Ramirez and Kim Gargar argued that foreign investors stood to gain from privatization.

"The Epira was designed to reform the power industry not for the benefit of end users but for foreign transnational corporations. The various highlights of the Epira ranging from the creation of [Transco], [Psalm], the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM), the unbundling of power rates and the various codes and rules implemented under the Epira are designed to segregate each saleable part of Napocor, make it attractive to investors and create structures and offices to facilitate these transactions."

Root of all evil

Why sell Napocor?

Despite an ERC-approved provisional authority to raise its rates by an average of 98 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) last year, the power company's cash deficit (between P70 billion and P100 billion annually and still growing) continues to be the biggest single burden the country has to bear.

Napocor's cash problems did not appear out of nowhere.

Both the government and the power industry agree that the state power firm's artificially low rates are what keep it from recovering financially. These low rates also drive much-needed investments away.

Losses

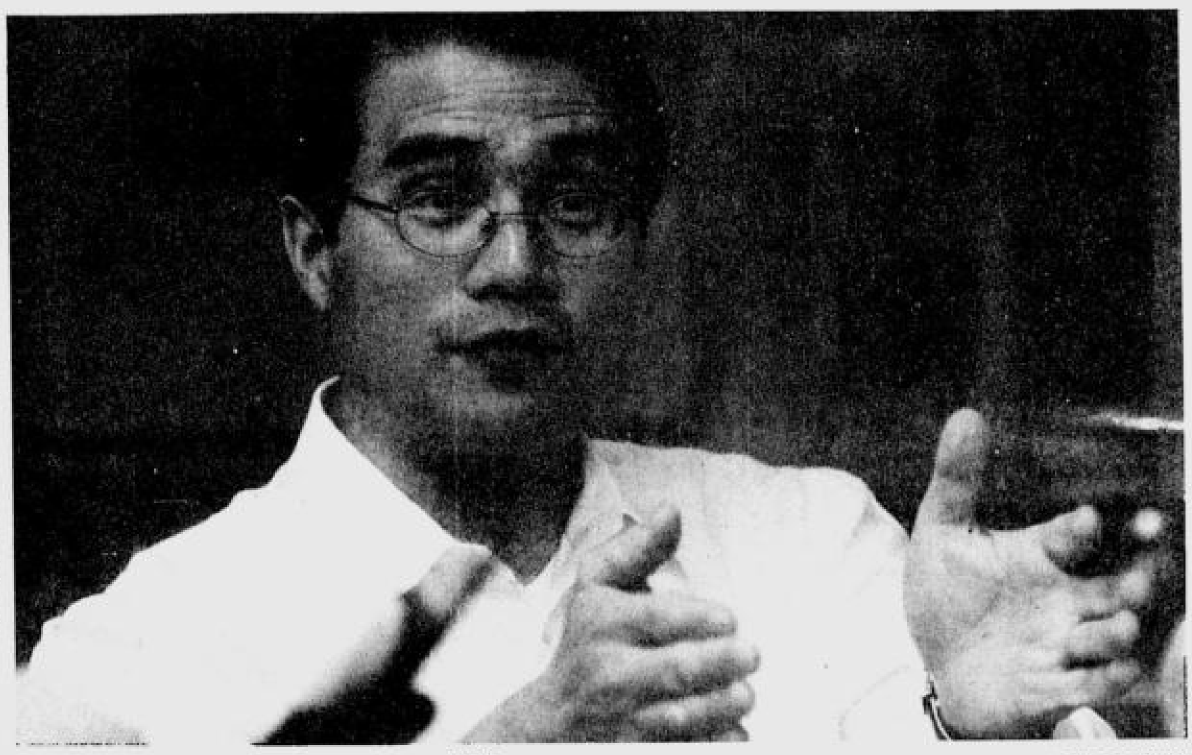
In May 2002, President Macapagal-Arroyo in her Labor Day speech announced the capping of Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA), or generation-related costs of power from independent power producers (IPPs) that it could pass on to customers, at a mere 40 centavos per kWh. It represented an 85-centavo slash per kWh in pass-on charges for Luzon customers and a 69-centavo average per-kWh reduction for all customers nationwide.

Napocor's provisional authority to raise rates effectively lifted the PPCA but not without leaving behind P10.08 billion in losses in 2002 and P2.07 billion in 2003.

A lot of other different factors led to the Napocor losses.

Interest expense, for one, amounted to P24.85 billion in 2003, up from P17.88 billion in 2002, due largely to the depreciation of the peso against the dollar.

A change in accounting standards in 2002 jacked up Napocor's losses as its bottom line had to take a one-time hit of P77 billion the following year—P66 billion for Napocor and P11 billion for the National Transmission Corp.



LOPEZ: Cheaper to save a megawatt than to build one.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

The new accounting standard called for the booking of foreign exchange gains or losses the same year they were incurred instead of amortizing these over the duration of the loans.

Years before that, foreign exchange fluctuations weighed down the state firm's finances, particularly in the wake of the Asian financial crisis in 1997.

Contracts with IPPs, the pass-on charges which had yet to be approved by the ERC, cost Napocor a whopping P30.34 billion in 2003, the biggest contributor to its P113.23-billion deficit that year.

While generation plants Casecnan hydro, Ilijan natural gas, Bakun hydro and Caliraya-Botokan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydro have been operating since 2001 and 2002, Napocor could not pass on purchased power costs to customers because the ERC has yet to approve them.

Unrecoverable natural gas fuel expenses added another P8.47 billion to Napocor's expenses in 2003, eligible stranded costs added P2.88 billion, and missionary electrification subsidies P3.24 billion.

Higher insurance

Other factors that jacked up the state firm's operating expenses were higher insurance expenses as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the United States in 2001, the increase in the use of other power supplies, mainly because of the rise in Napocor's purchased power cost, and the entry of new IPPs.

These contributed to Napocor's losses, plus the fact that the state firm was severely undercapitalized.

Despite having assets worth almost P1 trillion as of end-2003, Napocor's paid-in capital is only about three percent of that amount at P27 billion.

Due to lack of actual capital, the firm's operations had to be financed by borrowings over the past decades.

To save Napocor from collapse, Perez said its rates should go up and its privatization fast-tracked. New taxes would also have to be imposed to help pay for the part of Napocor's debts that would be absorbed by the national government.

Populist pressure

Federico Lopez, president of the Meralco-affiliated First Generation Holdings Corp., says the government will continue to be trapped in a "widening spiral of subsidies" if it allows external factors to get in the way of industry regulation.

With electricity rates suppressed because of populist pressure, Napocor's debts will continue to grow, he says. The government will then be forced to borrow more just to finance the operations of the bleeding power firm.

But with the still weak peso, borrowing costs will be higher, further worsening Napocor's finances.

Having Napocor rates more reflective of the true cost of producing power is the key, at this point, to attracting new investments in the generation sector and to putting a stop to the "widening spiral of subsidies."

Napocor in June last year sought a rate adjustment of P1.87 per kWh to enable it to achieve an 8-percent return on rate base, a measure of profitability.

The ERC in September 2004, however, only allowed it to hike rates by 98 centavos per kWh.

This provisional authority allowed Napocor to increase its Luzon rate to P3.81 per kWh from P2.57, its Visayas rate to P3.04 from P2.82 per kWh, and its Mindanao rate to P2.07 from P1.80 per kWh. These new rates also included adjustments for foreign exchange fluctuations.

Not enough

The Napocor rate hike petition, had it been given in full, should have allowed the state power firm to jack up its Luzon rate to P4.56 per kWh, its Visayas rate to P4.59 per kWh and its Mindanao rate to P3.13 per kWh.

Hearings on the final authority for the Napocor rate hike are still ongoing. So far, the ERC has given no indication of whether it will give in full the P1.87 per kWh that Napocor is asking for.

But Lopez says even the rate increase of P1.87 centavos per kWh that Napocor is seeking will not be enough to wipe out its net loss, even with the government's absorption of P200 billion of the power firm's debts.

On top of the current rates, as adjusted by virtue of the provisional authority, Napocor will need an additional rate increase of P1.41 per kWh.

Using this figure, current Napocor rates should be at least P5.22 per kWh in Luzon, P4.45 per kWh in the Visayas and P3.48 per kWh in Mindanao for the firm's net loss to be wiped out, Lopez says.

But to jack up the power firm's rates to reflect the true cost of generating power will require much political will and a stable regulatory environment.

"Attracting a sustainable inflow of power generation investments has one prerequisite—a more stable regulatory environment. The key words here are certainty, predictability, transparency and fairness. This cannot be overstressed enough," he says. *With a report from John Nery*

'Amazing Grace' continues to amaze as Isabela governor

From page A1

the May 2004 elections, she had ended the political dynasty of the well-entrenched Dys.

She also crossed swords with illegal loggers, gambling lords and corrupt government officials.

For her extraordinary courage in the face of great odds, Padaca, 40, was conferred the "Woman of the Year 2004" award by the civil society group Kilosbayan during simple ceremonies at the University of the Philippines College of Law on Jan. 14.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga, a Kilosbayan trustee, said the award was given to Padaca "to let the rest of the nation know that she is not alone in her admirable struggle for good government and in her faith in the ultimate victory of right over wrong ... (and) in recognition of her valiant and relentless struggle, despite her disability, to clean up the political system in her province, (and) inspire the leaders of the youth in Isabela to emulate her example."

"She is truly an amazing Grace," gushed Kilosbayan vice president Quintin Doromal.

New battle

Another battle looms for Padaca, this time in the form of an election recall to be filed by the Dy family.

"They could not even wait for one year to judge my performance as provincial governor," she said of her political adversaries.

Last December, mayors loyal to the Dy family were reportedly preparing the petition for Padaca's recall which they planned to file in May, exactly one year after she won as governor.

Padaca was unfazed and would rather focus on her goals for good governance in Isabela.

Four days ago, she posted signs urging contractors and suppliers "not to pay bribes to facilitate the release of their checks because the checks were already being processed." These advisories were posted at the main entrance of the Isabela capitol and in the offices of the governor, budget, accounting and treasurer.

Drive vs jueteng

She also embarked on a campaign against jueteng, which she described as an uphill struggle because "I could not get the cooperation of the mayors."

The mayors resisted, Padaca said, "because they need the jueteng money to support their constituencies' needs, like basketball courts, coffins, etc."

Even policemen were lukewarm to the drive because "they reportedly get 70 to 80 percent of their operation funds from the mayors," she said.

"Being physically disabled, I am used to being taken care of. Now, I am taking care of 1.2 million people," Padaca said, adding that she would need time to look into all these problems.

Impartial but bold

Her personal life, she said, had not changed. Her mother would take the tricycle to the market and would lead the prayers during wakes. "*Magdasal sa mga lamay* [praying at wakes], that's what keeps her busy," she said.

Although afflicted with polio when she was three years old, Padaca was smart and worked hard. She graduated magna cum laude in 1985 with a BS degree in Business Administration, major in accounting, from the Lyceum of the Philippines in Intramuros, Manila.

The following year, she took the exams for certified public accountants (CPA). She went back to Isabela and landed a job as a radio broadcaster with Bombo Radyo, known for its hard-hitting coverages.

Her three-day "impartial but bold" coverage of the 1986 snap elections launched her career as a no-nonsense broadcast journalist who spoke against the "wealthy and powerful" in Isabela.

In 2001, Padaca heeded the request of civic-spirited citizens to give the third district of Isabela a choice by running against Faustino Dy III in that year's congressional race.

"With unlimited faith but very limited material resources—P500,000 from small contributors, a few full-time volunteers and an old truck which she could use only every other day for her political campaign—Padaca gave Congressman Dy the scare of his life," Salonga said.

However, Padaca lost after the House Electoral Tribunal nullified votes that bore the name "Grace" instead of her full name "Maria Gracia Padaca."

In May 2004, Padaca ran and defeated Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., a member of the political Dy family. She was the first candidate to win against a Dy in an election since the '70s.

MANIFESTO

MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, manifest our unequivocal and unwavering support for First Quadrant Philippines, Inc.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the arbitrary persecution that has been foisted on First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., a legitimate company that has proved to be the most cost-effective and cost-efficient distribution network for our products.

Just like First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., we are reputable entrepreneurs conducting legitimate businesses with the end in view of providing for the needs of our families and the thousands of families of those we employ.

The pronouncement of a single individual cannot and will never outweigh our combined experience with First Quadrant Philippines Inc. Over the past three years, First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., by employing legitimate and innovative marketing strategies, has been instrumental in revitalizing the Marikina shoe industry and in boosting our sales despite the pallid economic climate.

Enough is enough. This controversy threatens the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos in our companies that continue to have jobs because of the unparalleled sales volumes delivered by First Quadrant Philippines, Inc. As small and medium enterprises (SMEs), we must not bear the brunt of whimsical and malicious designs. Our contributions are solid, our support has always been unequivocal.

We appeal to the sense of justice, fairness, and social responsibility among the legitimate authorities in this government. Commerce is the backbone of a sound economy and a strong Republic. Thus, legitimate entrepreneurs must be able to operate under an environment that is conducive for business – one where due process of law will prevail.

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PARA KAY PANGULONG GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Sa ngalan ng mga magsasapatos ng Marikina, at ng lahat ng libo-libong mga manggagawa na umaasa sa First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., kami po ay dumudulog sa inyo, Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo upang inyong dinggin ang aming panawagan at saloobin.

Sa loob po ng ilang taon ay nabahala kami sa unti-unting pagkakalugmok ng industriya ng pagsasapatos sa Marikina. Marami sa amin ang nawalan ng hanap-buhay at sa bawat araw na lumipas ay nabawasan kami ng bilang at naubusan kami ng pag-asa.

Akala po namin ay magtutuloy-tuloy na ang aming kalunos-lunos na kalagayan, hanggang sa dumating ang First Quadrant Philippines, Inc.

Dahil sa First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., ang mga pabrikang muntik na magsara ay muling nabuhay at ang mga mga manggagawang gaya namin ay nabuhayan ng loob.

Kung noon po ay maswerte nang makapag-trabaho kami ng diretso at kumpleto sa isang linggo, ngayon ay kinakailangan pa naming mag- overtime, matapos lamang ang napakaraming order ng mga sapatos.

Kung noon po ay pinanghihinaan na kami ng loob dahil sa pamamayagpag ng mga produktong imported, lalo na ang gawang China, ngayon ay masaya kami at nagmamalaki dahil ang yaring Marikina ay muling nakikilala, hindi lang sa Pilipinas kundi sa buong mundo.

Dahil sa First Quadrant Philippines, Inc., nagbalik ang dangal ng magsasapatos ng Marikina.

Mahal naming Pangulo, minsan ay sinabi ninyo na pangarap ninyo na "magkaroon ng pagkain sa bawat mesa"ang pamilyang Pilipino.

Nangyayari na po ito ngayon, dahil sa First Quadrant Philippines, Inc.

Kumakain na kami ng higit sa tatlong beses, napag-aaral namin ang aming mga anak at nabibigyang dignidad ang aming hanap-buhay bilang mga manggagawa.

Nakikiusap po kami sa inyo. Huwag ninyong payagan na mawalan ng kabuhayan ang daan-daang libong mga manggagawang gaya namin. Huwag ninyong hayaan na mamatay ang isang industriyang maipagmamalaki natin bilang mga Pilipino sa buong mundo.

Pakinggan po ninyo ang aming karaingan.
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Mad cow disease jumps to a goat, EU confirms

BRUSSELS—European scientists have confirmed the first case of "mad cow" disease in another species, officials said Friday, while playing down the risk from a condition linked to a horrific brain disease in humans.

The European Union's executive arm and the French agriculture ministry said that a goat slaughtered in France in 2002 had tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which previously only afflicted cows.

But the European Commission, while ordering EU governments to intensify tests of goat herds, said there was minimal risk to humans from consuming goat's meat, cheese or milk.

"It's the first natural case in the world," European Commission spokesperson Philip Tod said, explaining that goats had been given BSE in laboratories to see if the cross-species infection was possible.

The goat was slaughtered and randomly tested in France in 2002 as part of an EU-wide surveillance program against the spread of BSE, which is blamed for variant Creutzfelt-Jakob disease (vCJD) in humans, causing brain-wasting, personality change, loss of body function, and ultimately death.

A total of 148 people have died of vCJD in Britain. France has recorded nine cases; Ireland two (one of whom had lived in England), followed by Canada, Italy and the United States with one death each, according to official tallies.

The initial assumption was that it had contracted scrapie, which is among the diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) afflicting sheep and goats.

But the Weybridge laboratory has now confirmed that the goat had had BSE, which hitherto affected only cattle. The human victims are thought to have contracted vCJD after eating BSE-infected beef.

The European Commission, however, played down the risk to humans.

"The testing program has shown us that there is a very low incidence rate of TSEs in goats and allowed us to detect suspect animals so that they can be taken out of the food chain," EU health commissioner Markos Kyprianou said. *AFP*

Facts on mad cow

PARIS—News that a goat slaughtered in France in 2002 was infected with "mad cow" disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), is a disturbing sign that it can cross over to other species used for human consumption.

The presence of BSE in other animals had been considered theoretically possible but had never previously been detected.

BSE first appeared in the 1990s in Britain, decimating the cattle industry, and causing waves in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

The discovery triggered a collapse of beef farming in Britain and a ban on imports into other EU member states which has since been lifted.

In a bid to curb the disease and reassure consumers, Britain slaughtered around 180,000 head of cattle, but concern over the danger of dining on BSE-tainted meat persists.

BSE is blamed for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), a horrific brain disorder, in humans.

A total of 148 people have died of vCJD in Britain. France has recorded nine cases; Ireland two (one of whom had lived in England), followed by Canada, Italy and the United States with one death each, according to official tallies.

The incurable, untreatable disorder—a variant of the well-documented Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease—is caused by a rogue prion protein that runs amok in the brain, turning it "spongy" by destroying brain cells.

In 1996, the first evidence emerged to link vCJD with eating beef infected with BSE.

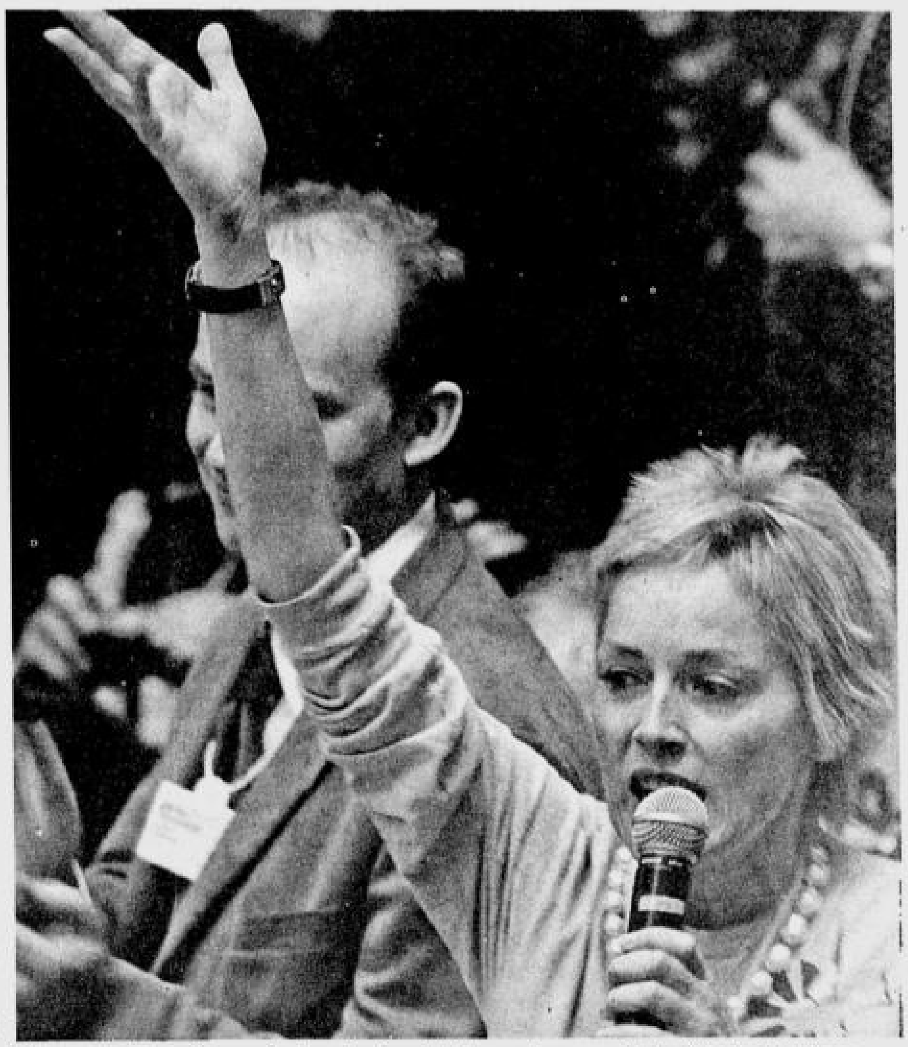
That unleashed panic among British consumers and countries which imported British beef. Billions of dollars were spent in cattle culls and subsidies for farmers in the desperate bid to restore faith in the market.

One of the biggest mysteries about vCJD has been the time the disease takes to incubate.

This above all has made it difficult to figure out how many people have been infected and in turn hampers the task of erecting a social and health safety net to help them.

Some scientists have feared the incubation could be as long as three decades, which if true would amount to a looming health disaster in Britain, where some 150 cases of vCJD have so far been recorded.

France, which used to be a big importer of British cattle and beef, and the United States have also recorded cases of vCJD and there have been deaths reported in Ireland, Italy and Canada. *AFP*



US actress Sharon Stone raises her hand and challenges the assembled political and business leaders to stand up and pledge donations, offering $10,000 herself, during a session on "Funding the War on Poverty" at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Jan. 28. REUTERS

Sharon Stone makes splash at Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland—Sharon Stone, the Hollywood actress and activist, admitted she "made an ass of myself" in a headline-grabbing plea for funds to tackle poverty in Africa—but brought in a million dollars.

Seizing her chance during a heavyweight debate at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, she stood up in the crowded hall to offer an immediate personal pledge of $10,000, then challenged others to follow suit.

Within minutes more than 30 business chiefs had signed up, and collectively raised more than $1 million to buy antimosquito bednets to help the fight against malaria in Tanzania, organizers announced afterwards.

She confessed later that she had been listening to the heavyweight debaters—including Britain's finance chief Gordon Brown, who himself has drawn up an antipoverty action plan—and felt it was not quick or concrete enough.

"I have this philosophy that money talks and cash screams," said Stone, of "Basic Instinct" fame, at a late-evening nightcap that dragged into the early hours of Saturday.

"A lot of them, let's face it, are pretty square," she said of the business leaders at the poverty debate.

"I thought, 'I'm going to have to make an ass of myself, I'm going to have to stand up and be shameless.' "But in the end, 12 containers of mosquito bednets are now on their way to Africa."

Klaus Schwab, the founder of the annual forum in Davos, Switzerland, said a special account had been opened for donations.

On Saturday, in a message emailed to all participants, Stone, who is also a committed AIDS activist in the United States, called again for more cash. *AFP*

Religious problems threatening to stifle tsunami relief effort

WASHINGTON—Religious intolerance could derail crucial relief efforts in tsunami-hit Asian nations, US groups warned Friday amid isolated reports of proselytizing in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India.

Many Western religion-based charities were among the first to reach out to countries ravaged by the Dec. 26 catastrophe that has killed more than 280,000 people and made one million others homeless.

"Now that we have an inflow of religiously-affiliated aid organizations, the tensions may increase," Roger Severino, legal counsel for The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said at a Congressional briefing on the issue.

Particularly in Sri Lanka, Severino said "we think that these aid groups could be considered a threat by some extremist organizations which have a history of accusing NGOs of unethical conversion activities."

The Becket Fund, citing reports, said Muslim extremists in Indonesia had directly threatened Christian humanitarian relief organizations for helping Muslim orphans while Hindus in India had begun to tout their anticonversion laws as a way to counter Christian relief groups.

The Fund, an interfaith, nonpartisan, public-interest law firm, said the "greatest danger" to relief efforts might lie in predominantly Buddhist Sri Lanka, where an upsurge of anti-Christian violence was reported before the tsunami struck.

The New York Times newspaper warned last week that scattered reports of proselytizing in Sri Lanka, predominantly Muslim Indonesia as well as India, which has large Hindu and Muslim populations, were arousing concerns that the goodwill spread by American relief efforts might be undermined by resentment.

Of the 67 American aid organizations providing tsunami relief, 30 are religiously-affiliated, including Jewish, Christian and Muslim, the Becket Fund said Friday.

Severino said there was resentment against Western NGOs doing relief work in Sri Lanka, citing strong objections by Buddhist political leaders over any channeling of aid via World Vision, a Christian relief group.

Buddhist monks have claimed that World Vision might use 11 million dollars collected from an international cricket match for "unethical religious conversions." *AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 30, 2005
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13**

I will live within you

Seek Yahweh, all you poor of the land who fulfill his commands, do justice and are meek, and perhaps you will find refuge on the day Yahweh comes to judge.

I will leave within you a poor and meek people who seek refuge in God. The remnant of Israel will not act unjustly nor will they speak falsely, nor will deceitful words be found in their mouths. They will eat and rest with none to threaten them.

2nd Reading: **1st Corinthians 1:26-31**

God chose the weak of the world

Brothers and sisters, look and see whom God has called. Few among you can be said to be cultured or wealthy, and few belong to noble families. Yet God has chosen what the world considers foolish, to shame the wise; he has chosen what the world considers weak to shame the strong. God has chosen common and unimportant people, making use of what is nothing to nullify the things that are, so that no mortal may boast before God. But, by God's grace you are in Christ Jesus, who has become our wisdom from God, and who makes us just and holy and free. Scripture says: Let the one who boasts boast of the Lord.

Gospel: **Mt 5:1-12**

The Beatitudes

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them:

Fortunate are those who have the spirit of the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

Fortunate are those with a pure heart, for they shall see God.

Fortunate are thosa who work for peace, they shall be called children of God.

Fortunate are those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

Commentary

This is the sermon on the mountain, the eight blessings of what it means to believe in Jesus, to dwell in the kingdom of justice and peace here and now and what we will both experience here on earth and know later in fullness. Eight groups of people are blessed now: the poor, the mourners, the gentle (non-violent); those who hunger and thirst for justice; the merciful, the pure in heart, those who work for peace and those persecuted like the prophets who called for justice for the poor as the way to honor and obey God alone. This is Jesus' call to rejoice if we find ourselves in these groups because of our words, our associations with other people, our choices and works for justice and mercy. The first and the last are in the present tense—to find ourselves among the poor and persecuted for justice puts us in the kingdom with Jesus now. The others will know more of it as it comes to fruition in the world. Each saying is a parable in itself—seeking to startle and catch us off guard. Do we dwell in the kingdom now? Who do we need to associate ourselves with now, befriend them and dwell close to them to know this blessing here on earth now?

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First flights between China, Taiwan begin after 55 years

DRAGON dancers perform as Taiwanese passengers board a China Eastern flight bound for Taipei at Pudong International Airport in Shanghai Jan. 29. REUTERS

TAIPEI—The first direct flights between bitter rivals China and Taiwan since the end of a civil war 55 years ago started Saturday, carrying Lunar New Year holidaymakers amid hopes for improving cross-strait relations.

Six Chinese planes landed in Taipei and one in southern Kaohsiung while Taiwan's China Airlines and EVA Airways also each sent a flight to Beijing on the first day of the historic reopening of the air links.

China's flag carrier Air China flew two planes from its subsidiary Shangdong Airlines to avoid showing the mainland flag in Taiwan.

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian, who is currently visiting the Pacific nation of Palau, said the landmark flights proved "difficulties can be overcome as long as the two sides have sincerity and sit down to negotiate."

Chen also urged Beijing to allow the aircraft to fly over the airspace of other countries, rather than just Hong Kong as with the current services, the United Daily News here reported.

Passengers and crew aboard the flights that first landed in Taiwan were greeted at Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek International Airport by government officials, parliamentarians and business representatives.

"The exchange of commercial flights is a historic step in cross-strait relations and it can serve as model to settle future bilateral issues," said Chiu Tai-san, chair of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, who greeted them in a red carpet welcome.

"Reaching an agreement allowing the flights means the two sides are able to shelve their political differences in order to seek mutual benefits to better bilateral ties," said Chiu after the first two mainland planes landed.

A pro-unification group was also waiting to greet the mainland planes at the terminal.

"Let's welcome the first direct flights which have contributed greatly to the future reunification of the two sides," shouted one man who was waving a national Taiwan flag.

China Southern Airlines flight CZ3097 touched down at about 9:30 a.m. after leaving the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou at 8 a.m. to become the first mainland plane flying to the island non-stop.

It was followed by five other mainland carriers departing from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou and one mainland plane to southern Kaohsiung, transporting a total of about 1,800 people.

The two Beijing-bound Taiwanese flights, which carried about 500 passengers, were met by Beijing authorities in a warm welcoming ceremony.

"I am so excited to join this historic moment," said one of the passengers onboard Southern Airlines, Chen Wei-nan, the secretary general of Taiwan's business association in Dongguan in China's Guangdong province. *AFP*

China, Boeing seal $7.2-B deal for 60 Dreamliners

WASHINGTON—Aerospace giant Boeing scored a major victory Friday against European rival Airbus with a blockbuster deal to sell 60 of its new 787 "Dreamliner" passenger jets to Chinese airlines.

Boeing signed a preliminary agreement with Chinese officials in Washington for the aircraft, worth some $7.2 billion, based on list prices.

The carriers—Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Shanghai Airlines and Xiamen Airlines—will have at least one of the new planes for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the company said.

The deal provides a major boost for Boeing's efforts to launch its new fuel-efficient jetliner in the global marketplace.

Boeing at the same time formally renamed the aircraft the Boeing 787 Dreamliner—continuing the long line of Boeing "7-series" airplanes that include the B747 and B777.

"The momentum behind the 787 continues to build," said Alan Mulally, president and chief executive of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

"We're honored to have these key Chinese airlines choose the 787 and join our launch team. The 787's advantages in efficiency, economics, environmental performance and passenger comfort are perfectly matched for China's growing, world-class aviation system."

"The 787 is the perfect airplane to welcome the world to China during the 2008 Beijing Olympics," said Li Hai, president of China Aviation Supply Co., one of the executives at a Washington signing ceremony.

"It will be the most technologically advanced commercial airplane in the world with more amenities to offer our passengers, and fuel efficiency that is only surpassed by its revenue potential."

Production of the 787 will begin in 2006. The first flight is expected in 2007 with deliveries starting in 2008. *AFP*

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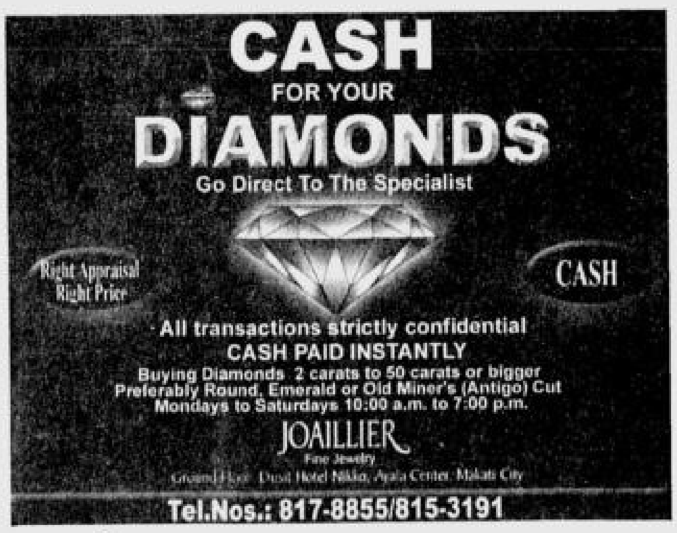

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DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURERS
05 February (AM)	Civil Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
(PM)	Gender Sensitivity and Domestic Violence (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
12 February (AM)	Pre Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (8:00-12:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
(PM)	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
19 February (AM)	Update in Taxation (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Serafin Salvador
(PM)	a) International Law b) ADR Act of 2004 (*ADR*)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Prof. Harry L. Roque Prof. Alfredo F. Tadiar
26 February (AM)	Update in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino
(PM)	a) ADR Applications in Commercial Disputes (*ADR*) b) Updates in Criminal Procedure (*Procedural Law*)	Two(2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Dean Custodio O. Parlade Justice Diosdado Peralta
05 March (AM)	Recent Developments in Cadastral and Land Registration Cases (*Substantive Law*)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Ramon Casanova
(PM)	E-Evidence (*MCLE Prescribed*)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Atty. Ivan E. Uy

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance. REGISTRATION FEE: P10,000.00/package or P1,200/session (morning or afternoon session). The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and handouts.

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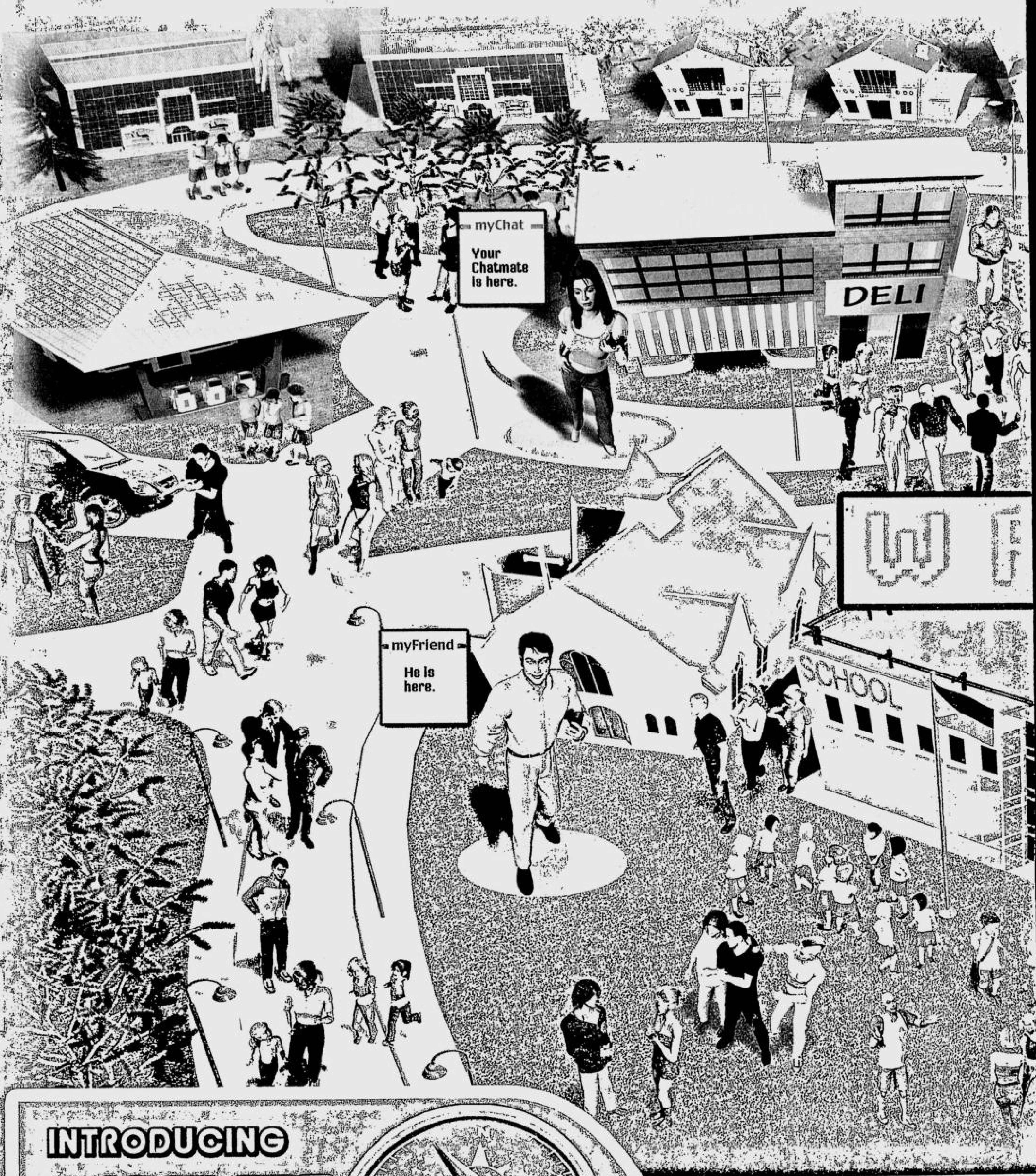

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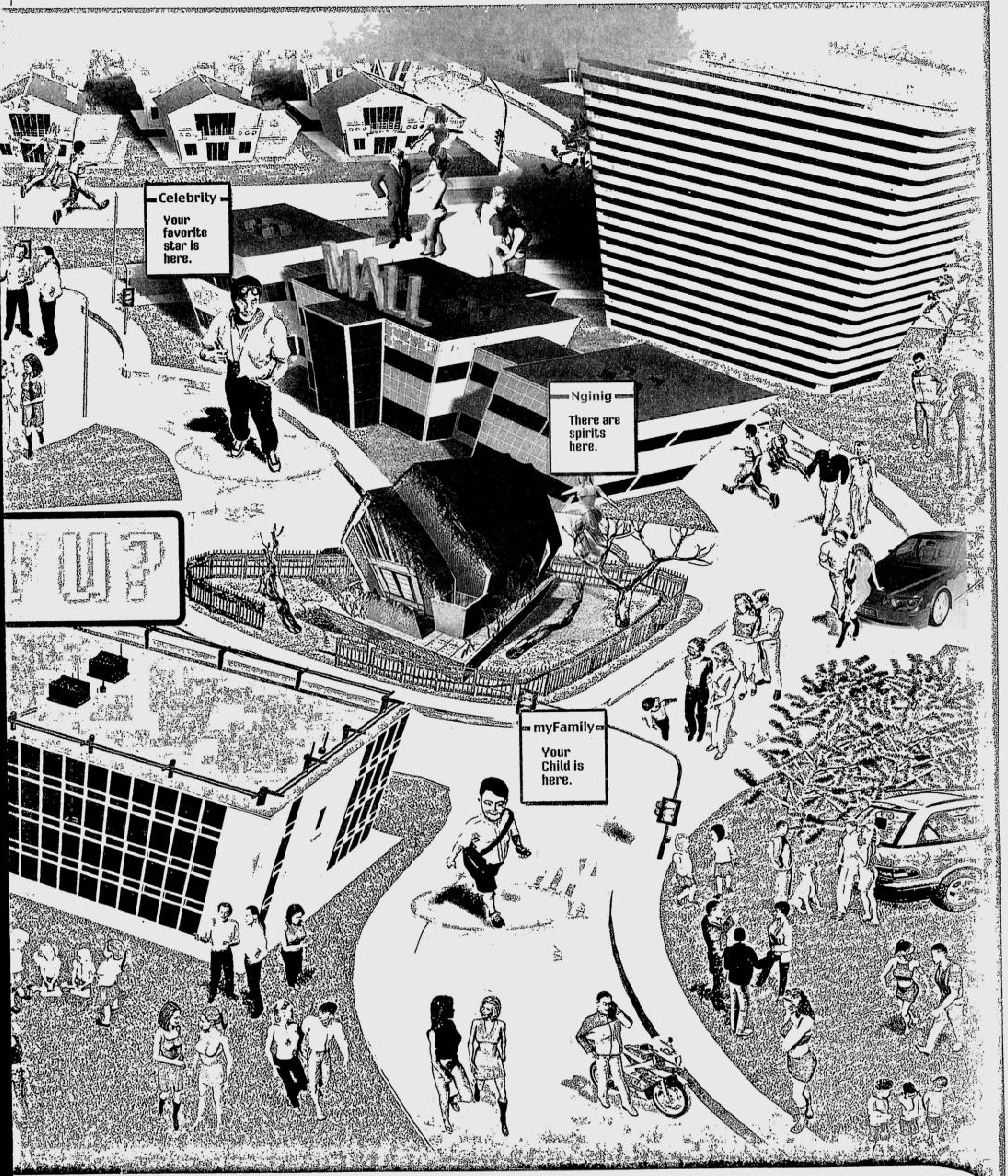
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The new team

EDITORIAL

AT LEAST this much can be said about the President's new Cabinet appointments. They don't have "political payback" written all over them.

This time around, the list of appointees is not burdened by an undistinguished ex-senator like Ramon Revilla or an undistinguished Cebu congressman like Ace Durano, who were chosen because of their political clout rather than for their management acumen.

The new finance secretary, Cesar Purisima, is already a known quantity, as a former SGV managing partner turned trade and industry secretary. (Having given up his high-paying job to serve as an alter-ego of the President only months before last year's elections, he was the surest bet to stay on in the Cabinet.) His replacement at the Department of Trade and Industry, Juan Santos, is even better known in business and political circles, as the longtime president of Nestlé Philippines.

Raphael Lotilla, who takes over the energy portfolio in April, is not as well known, but he has a record at the National Economic and Development Authority (where he was assistant secretary general) and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (where he is president) that recommended him to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Alberto Lina, the new Customs commissioner, is a well-known entrepreneur, not least because of his sponsorship of basketball teams. He runs the successful local franchise of Federal Express. (Bureau of Internal Revenue commissioner Guillermo Parayno was "prevailed upon" to stay, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.)

The reaction of both the business sector—and by implication the international investment community—was summed up in the welcoming words of the executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines. "They look like solid, serious businesspeople and that is what we need," Robert Sears said.

Of course, none of this is to say that a businessman or a technocrat necessarily has the nation's best interests at heart.

Already, militant groups have taken aim at Santos, whose term at Nestlé was marked by outbreaks of labor unrest. And questions are being raised about Lina, who is himself in the customs brokerage business. (Lina is also the older brother of ex-Laguna governor Joey Lina, a close Arroyo ally.)

But President Arroyo would have done the country a disservice if she had appointed, say, another clutch of politicians as the country's new economic managers. That would have sent the wrong signal to decision-makers here and abroad. And the impact would have been both immediate and lasting.

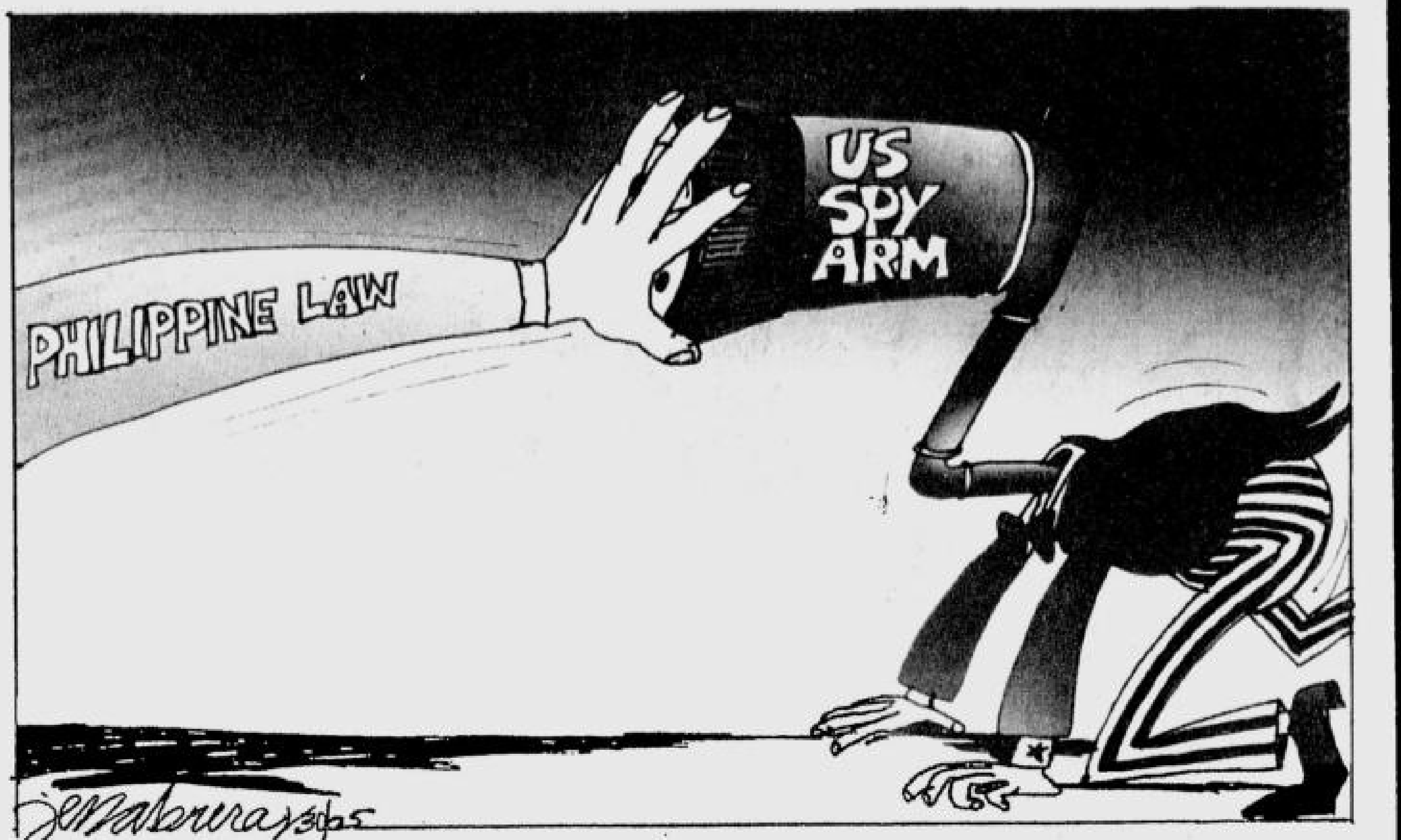
We aren't even talking of foreign investments, which often come, as the expression goes, with strings attached. We are talking about local businessmen choosing between expanding in the country and parking their money abroad, about fund managers and credit analysts looking for signs of political will in our sometimes rambunctious democracy, about middle-class citizens weighing a decision to take out a loan for a car or a home.

If a politician had been named to head the Department of Finance, for instance, say as part of a deal with the opposition, the inevitable uproar would have slowed the economy.

Bunye was understandably upbeat in announcing the appointments. "The ongoing revamp projects a renewed sense of continuity and direction towards the realization of the President's 10-point agenda, as a new team is brought in to pull the economic carriage forward," he said.

(A curious choice of metaphor, that. Bunye's image assumes an "economic carriage" that is not only underpowered but even non-motorized. For the carriage to move, the new economic managers have to pull it forward. What, is the carriage stuck in a rut?)

Now the burden is on the appointees to work smart, and to work as a team. (Already, Lotilla has been warned by his former teacher, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, that he had only six months to show he was up to the job.) Their challenge is to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty at home and to restore institutional confidence abroad. More than ever, these twin objectives are mutually dependent. They define the nation's best interests.



Hoping for justice

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

GEN. Carlos Garcia, who shocked the nation with his P143 million fortune despite his monthly salary of only P35,000 is now facing charges before the court martial for conduct unbecoming and, in the civil courts, for unexplained wealth, perjury, and other related crimes. His subordinates in the AFP comptroller office are also being investigated for similar incredible affluence amounting likewise to millions of pesos they presumably could not have acquired legitimately.

Among them is retired Gen. Jacinto Ligot who must explain the provenance of certain valuable properties in his name, including massive bank accounts and expensive cars not compatible with his lawful income while serving as AFP comptroller during the term of Gen. Angelo Reyes as chief of staff. Especially noteworthy are the frequent trips abroad of Mrs. Ligot, often in the company of Mrs. Reyes, to various cities in the United States, Europe and Asia at not inconsiderable expenses. In addition to the cost of such travels, the general has to prove how he lawfully acquired several valuable properties here and two houses in California worth millions of dollars.

Another officer whose unseemly wealth has raised eyebrows is Lt. Col. George A. Rabusa, who is now facing criminal prosecution and must show how he became a multimillionaire on his modest salary in the AFP. The extent of his enormous fortune was detailed recently by Jarius Bondoc in his column appropriately titled "Gotcha" to include bank accounts, real estate, cars and other investments totaling as much as P34 million. His wife, who is also a frequent traveler abroad, usually with Mrs. Reyes, also owns several valuable properties and bank accounts, either with her husband or their two daughters, amounting to P10 million.

Revelation of the numerous travels abroad of Mrs. Reyes, often with Mrs. Ligot or Mrs. Rabusa, has fueled suspicions also of the Reyeses. The fact that Mesdames Ligot and Rabusa's respective spouses were under General Reyes when he was AFP chief of staff has deepened this mistrust, particularly since Reyes' record is none-too-immaculate either. While secretary of national defense, he was questioned about his P10 million mansion in Fort Bonifacio that he could not have afforded with his limited income as a Cabinet member. He resigned as such and the probe was discontinued as if his leaving the public service operated as his exoneration.

He was soon back as anti-kidnapping czar and is now secretary of the interior and local governments, but the former charge against him has not been revived. He says that the high-priced building has been partly funded by his mother, who must be opulent in her own right. But there are still the travels of his wife, sometimes with him and often with the wives of his subordinates in the AFP, that call for closer examination, considering their frequency and possible public expense. No wonder that the Commission on Appointments has not been too ready to confirm his nomination by the apparently trustful President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The wives of the aforementioned generals also have a lot to explain about the number of their foreign travels and the cost of such peregrinations, in view of the supposedly humble earnings of their respective husbands. Mrs. Reyes says she traveled abroad 50 times during the past 12 years and some of the trips with her husband were official, charged to our government or the host country. (Did she go as the general's aide de camp?) Mrs. Ligot, who traveled 25 times from 1996 to 2004, was her usual companion. Mrs. Rabusa, who accompanied Mrs. Reyes once to Singapore, toured Europe, America, Asia and Australia 18 times for the past nine years at the estimated airline expense alone of P1 million. On top of all these, Mrs. Ligot and Mrs. Rabusa are co-owners with their husbands of questionable investments and property acquisitions that are disproportionate to their families' lawful income.

Another general whose investigation for financial irregularities has been resurrected is former AFP chief Lisandro Abadia, who claims persecution after the original charge against him has, he says, already been dismissed. They are looking at him again on the suspicion of another cover-up by the AFP that has now lost the former respect of the people as the defender and moral exemplar of the nation.

And while we're opening this can of worms, what about the abuses committed under martial law? The Freedom Constitution called for the eradication "of all iniquitous vestiges of the previous regime," but they are still here to mock and accuse us. Of the many cases filed against Imelda Marcos, only one has resulted in her conviction, which was affirmed by the Third Division of the Supreme Court but contritely reversed by the Court en banc. Even the P23.5 billion tax deficiency adjudged against her remains unenforced while she lives ostentatiously in luxury while claiming penury.

We will observe the 19th anniversary of Edsa I next month but we might as well be back to the Marcos depredations. We will remain captive to that wicked past unless the government finally renders justice after its long-induced and long-unawakened slumber. Let it not be said of us that, as Benjamin Franklin warns, "He that lives upon hope will die fasting."

'BE' attitudes

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a proud lion who visited a tiny mouse. "Hey, mouse, I'm getting married. What's the best advice you can give?" the lion asked.

"Just remember this my friend, I too was a lion before I got married," said the mouse.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 5, 1-12), Jesus puts forth the Beatitudes which, on closer examination, are a sure formula for failure in the eyes of this world. They are guidelines fit for a mouse, not for a lion, the world will tell us. But, look again and give it a try, and you'll realize that there is no greater power than gentleness of heart. What "BE" attitudes (in contrast to "DON'T BE" attitudes) can we learn from the Beatitudes?

* * *

First, BE POOR in spirit. If life is one big success and wealth, we may never learn what it is like to be dependent on God. We may even forget the next life because we have made ourselves too attached and too comfortable in this life. Before we know it, we may begin to think that the world revolves around us, and that we actually can get and control anything we desire.

* * *

BE HOPEFUL. Amid problems and sadness in this world, let us be comforted with the thought that there is no complete happiness in this world, and that we who don't live a luxurious, happy life now, will have the Kingdom of God as our reward. God has promised that He will turn our mourning into joy, and that He has prepared a place for us where every tear will be wiped away.

* * *

BE HUMBLE. Let us not go the way of the haughty and the proud, for it leads to the fall. Let us not think of ourselves bigger than what we really are. We are just "dust in the wind," and yet we sometimes think and act as if we were some immovable mountain. With Mary in her Magnificat, may we always remember that the Lord "casts the mighty from their thrones and lifts up the lowly."

* * *

BE STEADFAST. Let us hold on to our goodness especially when we are tempted to follow the ways of the world. Let us hold on to the truth, and continue to search for the truth, and stand for what is good and true. God is always on the side of the truthful, and with God on our side, we can be confident, and we can speak our truth quietly and clearly.

* * *

BE MERCIFUL. Remember, we too have been shown mercy so many times, so we must be compassionate and understanding especially to the "little ones." The minimum of mercy is justice, but remember, too, that beyond justice is mercy. Let us not be exacting and calculating. Extend, reach out, go beyond, and be generous.

* * *

BE GOOD. Let us not envy those who seem to prosper by evil ways, and let us not be carried by the current of this world that seeks pleasure and comfort by all means, by whatever means. In the long run, crime does not pay. Goodness pays, and goodness itself is its own reward.

* * *

BE PEACEFUL. The "Desiderata" puts it so beautifully: "As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all people." Be a bridge rather than a wall. Be a cave that takes in people rather than a mountain that shuts out people. Remember, it is easier to divide than to unite, to destroy rather than to build, to criticize than to encourage; but continue to unite, to build and to encourage anyway because you have to make present His peace in your own little way.

* * *

BE STRONG. Persecution should not alarm or disturb us. If we suffer because of righteousness, let us console ourselves with the thought that we did not cop out or sell out on the Lord, who expects us to be strong amid adversities and persecutions. Let us continue to be salt of the earth and light of the world, and let us not give up our goodness till the end.

* * *

BE STILL. There are no sure and immediate rewards for us who follow the Beatitudes in this world, but be still and know that God is God, and He will make true His promise. The assurance is there that He will be with us, and He will not abandon us, especially when we are insulted and persecuted for His sake.

* * *

Finally, BE HAPPY. Rejoice and be glad "for your reward will be great in Heaven." But even in this world, amid persecutions, deprivations and oppressions, we can experience true peace, serenity and joy if we follow these "BE" attitudes derived from the Beatitudes.

* * *

I just came from my first trip to Batanes, and there I experienced the Beatitudes concretely in so many ways. Not only is the place so beautiful and serene, but also are the people who live out the Gospel values of simplicity, honesty, hospitality, generosity and joy. Away from the maddening crowd and from the usual barrage of socio-political-economic woes of our country, for a while, I thought I was not in the Philippines. Let us all try to live out and concretize the Beatitudes in our daily lives.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to live the "BE" attitudes derived from the Beatitudes. Amen.

How to discourage savings

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE CULTURE of savings among Filipinos has never been one of our strong points. The days when we encouraged our children to save by gifting them with piggy banks appear to be a thing of the past. I remember my parents providing me with a piggy bank where I could playfully drop the loose coins that every now and then came my way. In the beginning, it was great fun experiencing the growing weight of my toy depository. Unfortunately, when the time came and I wanted to get out some money, I realized that it was virtually impossible to do so without destroying the container. So I had to wait until the piggy bank was reasonably heavy and only then did I feel justified in cracking it wide open.

Today, the Philippines has one of the lowest savings rates in the region. Part of the reason is that our government has not been actively supporting savings programs and, as with many initiatives in the past, it has shown inconsistency in the implementation of established policies on savings.

In 1963, a law was passed recognizing savings and loan associations as "non-stock corporations for the purpose of accumulating the savings of its members," which would then be used primarily to serve the needs of their households by providing financial assistance for home building and development. The groupings came to be referred to as Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (NSSLA). The law was subsequently amended in 1997 as RA 8367 and provided incentives for these associations in the form of tax exemptions, making it attractive for the members to save. The purpose was to encourage thrift and move our people away from wasteful and useless consumption.

In lofty terms, our legislators described RA 8367, the NSSLA Law of 1997, as the heart of the nation's policy "to encourage industry, frugality and accumulation of savings and judicious utilization of credit among the members of non-stock savings and loan associations." Last week, barely six years after passing the law, the House of Representatives passed—a more accurate description is railroaded—House Bill No. 3295 repealing the tax incentives of NSSLAs. And this action was taken after one hastily called committee hearing which did not provide adequate time for discussions with the concerned institutions.

For the benefit of our congressmen and the general public, let me explain the concept of operations of NSSLAs.

The operational principle of the associations actually stems from the traditional *"paluwagan"* among friends or group of friends within offices or neighborhoods. By collecting fixed amounts over a certain period, members are induced into forced savings which they can get at a pre-determined date in the future. Basically, the associations put together people who pool their resources which can be drawn on by members in time of need. At the end of the year, the surplus—after deducting all mandatory reserves/obligations—is distributed to the members in the form of dividends. The NSSLA is limited to a well-defined group. Members are usually employees of one company, or government workers belonging to the same department, or individuals engaged in the same trade or profession. A common trait shared by the members is that most (if not all) are considered unqualified by regular banks and lending institutions for any type of credit because of marginal salaries or because their jobs are a bit risky like that of a soldier.

What are the benefits available to NSSLA members? Let me point out the most important ones. First, easy access to and collateral-free loans during times of emergency without having to submit voluminous documentation as when dealing with a regular bank. This is coupled with speed in the processing of the application. Second, lending interest rates are at minimum levels unlike in banks, which are aimed for maximum profit. This is mainly due to the fact that the NSSLA is service-oriented while a bank is profit-motivated. Borrowers are also assured that their loans are given out on affordable repayment schemes, thereby easing their financial burden. Third, aside from the usual salary loan, the members can avail of educational loans, pension loans, livelihood and housing loans.

Finally, members can earn more on their savings because of relatively higher interest rates offered by NSSLAs.

As I mentioned earlier, most of the members of the NSSLAs belong to the rank and file of the private and public sectors. In government, these are the teachers and soldiers who possess nothing of value acceptable to banks as collateral. Only pawnshops and individual lenders, like the neighborhood *Bombay*, will provide them with cash but at usurious rates.

At least, civilian government employees, like our teachers, can run to the GSIS (if we can believe its press releases). Employees of private businesses have the SSS. But for our soldiers, they have no GSIS or SSS. They only have their savings and loan associations.

* * *

As of yearend 2004, there were on record, 122 NSSLAs with a membership of close to a million and a total loan portfolio of almost P56 billion. To remove their tax incentives at this time may mean additional earnings for the government. But in the long run, these gains will diminish considerably with the contraction of the entire industry. This will in turn have a negative impact on the lives and welfare of a significant sector of our society.

The move to lift the tax exemptions of these institutions is most untimely. It is a backward move which goes against established government policy. We must continue to encourage our people to save. Mobilizing locally generated capital is just as (if not more) important as bringing in foreign investments.

Discovering one's 'inner dancer'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BAGETS may have the *kilig* movies of Piolo and Bea, Richard and Angel for spice or consolation this Valentine season, but more ahh... mature couples will find their thrills in "Shall We Dance," which opens in theaters next week.

Based on the 1996 Japanese original of the same title, "Shall We Dance" transplants the repressed Tokyo salary man in the first movie to Chicago, where he has become a middle-aged lawyer. John Clark (Richard Gere) finds himself asking—much like his clients who have him sum up their lives for them in wills—"Is that all there is?"

By all conventional standards, Clark is a man who has nothing left to wish for. His wife Bev (Susan Sarandon) puts her finger on it when she tells him that "There is nothing in a box that you want or that I can give you." He has a successful career, a smart and lovely wife, and two loving children. But there is a part of him that hungers for more.

One evening, while aboard a commuter train, Clark happens to look up and catches a glimpse of a beautiful young woman (Jennifer Lopez) looking pensively out of the window of a dance studio. Intrigued by her air of sadness and longing, he decides to satisfy his curiosity.

Entirely out of character, and out of the loop of familiar conventionality, Clark finds himself enrolling for a beginner's dance class at Miss Mitzi's Dance Studio, sharing the dance floor with two losers, and with Bobbie, a manic ballroom wannabe whom her studio classmates have dubbed "The Bobbienator." Clark also discovers that another lawyer in his firm (Stanley Tucci), who styles himself a jock at work, is in reality a dance fanatic who disguises his identity on the dance floor for fear of ridicule. As he puts it: "You don't know how much pressure there is on a straight man who loves to dance."

* * *

BUT of all the people he discovers in his new world of dance, it is Paulina, the woman whose soulful gaze out of the window first drew him in, who most intrigues Clark. It turns out that she is an accomplished ballroom dancer, who was good enough to make it to the finals of the world's top ballroom competition, only to return not just defeated but vanquished in spirit.

When Paulina rebuffs Clark's invitation for dinner, suggesting that he frequents the dance studio only to get closer to her, the lawyer initially considers giving up his new-found vocation. But he realizes that dancing has captured his heart and ignited his passion, that his visits to the dance studio are no longer about Paulina, but rather about answering a deeper need.

However, Clark's budding romance with dance leaves his wife feeling left out. Worried about her husband's frequent late nights and changed personality, and wondering if he is having an affair, Bev hires a private detective to look into his nocturnal activities. When the detective invites her to watch Clark compete in the finals of Chicago's foremost dance competition, Bev feels for the first time shut out of her husband's life, that he not only kept a secret from her, but deliberately excluded her from something that had apparently become a vital part of his life.

Can John Clark, upright citizen and happy family man, co-exist with John Clark the whiz at waltz?

* * *

TRYING to explain to the private detective why people get married, Bev Clark says it's because a person needs "a witness to one's life." Everyone, save for the rare and fortunate few, tread through life in anonymity, she says. And the reason a man or a woman gets married is to be assured that at least one other person gets to witness your life, gets to know you in intimate detail and can testify that your existence held some meaning.

When Bev confronts John about why he kept his life in the dance studio a secret, he confesses that he was afraid of shattering the image of happiness and security that they had built around their marriage. Indeed, "old marrieds" know of this hunger—this search for personal meaning and fulfillment even as one strives to meet the demands of career, family, society.

"Shall We Dance" may not have the usual elements of cinematic romance. The male lead does not waltz into the sunset with his romantic interest. But it does affirm the value of love—for oneself and one's unspoken dreams, for the people who give meaning to one's life, and for dance and the wonderful exhilaration and freedom it allows.

There have been many movies made of and about dance—there's even a tribute to Cyd Charisse in one scene of "Shall We Dance." But this movie tells the story not only about how one life is transformed by the power of dance. It also tells of how a family is created in the dingy confines of the dance studio, and how many individuals are allowed—like butterflies bursting out of their cocoons—to become their real selves on the dance floor.

* * *

QUITE obviously, this movie would not have worked had it not been Richard Gere playing the lead. As the lawyer discovering his inner dancer, Gere lends just the right touch of vulnerability and verve to John Clark. He is quite a sight in a tuxedo, affirming that gray hair and laugh lines only add to a man's allure. Jennifer Lopez has never looked more sultry, and never has a movie showed off her bootyliciousness in quite so compelling a manner as in "Shall We Dance." I bet young men (and older women) will be re-playing J Lo's tango with Gere endless times once the DVD goes on the market.

Susan Sarandon, the production notes claim, was chosen to play the role of Bev for her "distinct embodiment of feminine intelligence." Wives watching this movie will find themselves rooting for her character; for if husbands could harbor inner Astaires, wives, too can testify there's more than a little J Lo in them.

Distributing the tax burden

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN GENERAL, no tax is ever acceptable to a people. This is even more so if the government that collects it is perceived to be useless, illegitimate and corrupt. A good government is one that is able to show the public that the taxes it demands are collected justly—i.e., according to one's earnings and assets—and entirely spent for the common good.

Herein lies the biggest problem of the present government. Most Filipinos believe that taxes in our society are collected more on the basis of expediency rather than on justice. That the government has been relying more on consumption taxes than on property and income taxes. That it has zeroed in more on the fixed-income earners with no breathing space than on those with variable incomes, like freelance professionals and businesses. The public feels that those who bear the brunt of taxation are not the rich who have unlimited ways of hiding their true incomes, but the poor and lower middle classes, like the ordinary government employees, who have single and easily traceable incomes.

On top of this, citizens do not see their taxes being spent to improve social services but only to line the pockets of corrupt bureaucrats and to pay for government debts accumulated by bad leaders.

People may know little of the superiority of the value-added tax (VAT) over the ordinary sales tax or excise tax. But they know that whichever form of tax is collected, it will always be passed on to them as final consumers. Therefore they believe that any increase in the VAT or any expansion in its coverage will always be, in the last analysis, an additional burden that they cannot hope to pass on to anyone but their families.

They want the government to first plug the drain in public funds caused by massive corruption. They want the government to go after the large tax-evaders, to tax the wealthy instead of the poor by focusing on large incomes and lavish consumption, rather than on meager incomes and basic needs.

In view of this, it may make very little sense to warn the Filipino public that they face the consequences of an impending economic collapse if the fiscal deficit is not immediately solved. Many think they have nothing further to lose in the event of an economic crisis. They don't see themselves as meaningful stakeholders in the present system. Not a few may even believe that a crisis is what the country probably needs to bring the national leadership to its senses.

The point is you cannot expect the public to pay for the debts of unaccountable government corporations, which the government has indiscriminately assumed year after year. The government must give a full accounting of these obligations, and assign responsibility, before it should even begin to pay a single centavo of public money to service them. Only then can it begin to allocate the burden of paying these obligations. It can sell the remaining assets of these GOCCs, fire their overpaid executives, and settle their debts once and for all; or it can hold on to them and continue to service their debts. In either case, we all end up paying the costs in the form of higher tariff or higher taxes. I believe we deserve to know at least whom to curse for this state of affairs.

I am certain that, in the final analysis, the present government will choose the path of privatization. This relieves the political leadership of the heavy political cost of imposing new taxes to cover recurring debt service. It may also restore to the national budget the flexibility it needs to address the requirements of a growing population. But what a pity that government-run firms in our country should always be known as inefficient and graft-ridden. In other societies, they do not have that stigma, and they do function well as the public's best defense against the abuses of oligopolies. As important, in the hands of a developmental state with a clear vision, such public firms can become the spearhead of a sustainable and equitable form of development.

I believe that the whole tax debate has focused too much on the need to raise additional revenue immediately to avert a looming crisis, and too little on the need to streamline mechanisms so that existing tax laws are fully implemented and various forms of leakage in the revenue system are plugged. Just to give an example: rental from high-end accommodations is probably one of the most under-reported earnings in this country. One can say the same thing for the incomes of top practitioners in the legal, medical and entertainment fields. So much tax-evasion takes place at the upper levels of our society that it has become almost immoral to take every centavo of income and consumption tax from the majority who do not earn enough, for no better reason than because it is easy.

For the last five years, public school teachers have been demanding an increase in their monthly salaries. Government says it understands their situation but that it has no money to pay the increase they are asking for. I say, if you cannot increase their pay, stop withholding the 10-percent income tax from their salaries until you can give them the level of remuneration they deserve. Why should tax privileges be the prerogative of the independent power producers?

Only a thin line separates taxation from exploitation, and our government seems bent on doing everything to erase it.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Acceptable job loss

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

THESE are not the best of times for the officials and employees of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, the top revenue generating agencies of the government.

Until the enactment last week of the Lateral Attrition Law, BIR and BOC personnel did not have to worry about losing their jobs, as long as they did not violate civil service rules and regulations. And if there were justifiable grounds for their dismissal, the long-winded administrative process of investigation, hearing and appeals in the Civil Service Commission gave them a breathing spell of at least two more years.

Now, things have changed. The second of the eight tax reform measures that the Arroyo administration wants from Congress has imposed "good performance" as one of the criteria for continued employment in the two government offices that are reputed to be the most graft-ridden in the bureaucracy.

This time, collection targets will be set annually for them. If they meet them, well and good; they will keep their jobs. In case they overshoot them, they will receive a portion of the surplus in the form of incentive bonus. But if they fall short of the quota by at least 7.5 percent, the parties responsible for the shortfall can be subjected to disciplinary action, which includes dismissal from the service.

To ensure the fair implementation of the reward and penalty mechanism, the law created a nine-member Revenue Performance Evaluation Board that will be headed by the finance secretary or his representative. This committee will have the final say on who gets additional pay for a job well done or who should be kicked out for inefficiency, incompetence or questionable performance.

Discrimination

It's no surprise that the affected employees strongly object to this latest attempt of the government to make public interest—not the enrichment of their pockets—the underlying reason for their continued employment. How dare the government put them on the same level as the traffic enforcers in Metro Manila who get a commission from the traffic violation fines they collect from erring motorists!

A high-ranking official of the BIR employees union has served notice that his group will question before the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the law. He said the right of the BIR and BOC employees to the "equal protection of the law" is violated when, unlike other government employees, their failure to meet pre-set performance objectives is considered a valid ground for their dismissal.

He forgot to mention though that, unlike other government offices, the BIR and BOC are responsible for collecting 80 percent of the taxes needed to run this country and because of that responsibility, they are endowed with powers that, under ordinary circumstances, can be only exercised by the courts.

With a minimum of fuss, the BIR can seize the bank deposits of taxpayers to enforce the payment of tax liabilities. The BOC is authorized to impound and auction off goods that enter the country in violation of customs regulations. These agencies are not ordinary or run-of-the-mill government offices in our bloated bureaucracy; they are in a class of their own.

The last time I read my book in constitutional law, it said "when there are reasonable grounds for so doing, persons or their properties may be grouped into classes to each of which special legal rights or liabilities may be attached."

Justification

Thus, for example, female employees (because of their physical structure and maternal functions) enjoy certain rights and privileges that are not given to their male counterparts. The same reason explains why some businesses in the country are off limits to foreigners and reserved exclusively for Filipino citizens.

The BIR and BOC personnel have nothing to lose if they seek judicial intervention to enable them to hold on to their positions without having to worry about their productive value to the country. The most that they would suffer in case their appeal is rejected is a few thousand pesos in attorney's fees, a pittance compared to the millions of pesos that change hands daily in under-the-table deals in their offices.

Even assuming that the complaint of discrimination is valid, the tax and customs people have nobody to blame but themselves for getting that kind of treatment. The culture of corruption within these government agencies stinks to high heavens. Diogenes could die of old age if he does his search in their premises.

Until the government launched a lifestyle check, the parking areas of the BIR and BOC were virtual showcases of the latest motor vehicles available in the market. The favorite customers of swanky bars or entertainment centers are the men and women who decide how much a taxpayer should pay to settle his tax obligations.

Something is terribly wrong somewhere if an official or employee of the BIR or BOC and his or her spouse, whose declared income is not more than P180,000 a year, can afford to live in a mansion at an exclusive subdivision, pay the tuition fees of high-priced schools and drive cars of the latest models.

Desperate measure

For obvious reasons, the BIR and BOC do not suffer from a dearth of applicants for vacant positions, especially those that involve interaction with the taxpayers. Who cares about low salary or bad reputation when the trade-off is the opportunity to earn much, much more (and tax-free at that) in "sidelines" or extra-legal transactions?

The Lateral Attrition Law does not guarantee that these two government offices will be graft-free or that their personnel will henceforth obey the Seventh Commandment. ("Thou shall not steal.") This early, some of their "bright boys" must be already figuring out ways and means of going around the provisions of the law that may threaten their profitable livelihood.

Also, the legal profession is not wanting in members who, for a handsome fee, will look for loopholes or ambiguities in our laws that will serve the interests of their clients even if, in the process, the greater interests of the public are sacrificed.

The hidden message of the law to the BIR and BOC is: you can continue with your merry ways as long as you deliver to the government the revenues it needs to satisfy its annual financial requirements. You can keep your loot and even receive a bonus if you meet the collection quota.

That's how bad the country's revenue gathering mechanism has become.

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Who are the real agents of change? (2)

IN HIS debate with the party-list group Akbayan on Jan. 16 in this section, Jose Maria Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), accused former CPP leader Ricardo Reyes of being one of the masterminds of Kampanyang Ahos, an anti-infiltration campaign against suspected deep penetration agents (DPA) in Mindanao in 1985 and the early part of 1986.

Ahos is the Cebuano term for garlic, which in Philippine folklore is a potent weapon in warding off *demonyo* (demons, CPP parlance then for military agents). The anti-DPA campaign in Mindanao left hundreds of party cadres, guerrillas and mass activists dead. The campaign was first considered "quite successful" but with excesses. It was later denounced because it "perpetrated grievous violations of the individual rights of the suspects" and "the standards of due process."

The remains of many of the victims have not been found.

Talk of the Town is printing the side of Reyes in the interest of fair play. This section sent the first draft of his article to Sison so the CPP founding chair could respond to it. Upon the request of Reyes, this section then forwarded Sison's piece to him so he could revise his first article.

It is hoped that the truth will come out as a result of the exchange of charges and counter-charges.

Sison wants bloody revenge, not truth

By Ricardo Reyes

To: Jose Maria Sison
Dear "Tatang," This was how we called you then, with fondness. That name began to lose its meaning to me when you started calling me counterrevolutionary, enemy agent and a criminal, like those who opposed your "reaffirm" line.

Now you want me killed. Your article two Sundays ago in this Talk of the Town section confirmed that you and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New-People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), where you are paramount leader and CPP chair, have long sent a pack of assassins to finish me off.

I write this letter as plain Ric, the Ric you once knew as comrade and follower, the Ric you now want eliminated.

I am talking to you now not as a leader of any organization like Akbayan, which, as you yourself have said, has nothing to do with the accusations you leveled against me. So that we do not mix up the issues, I have gone on leave from Akbayan. I want more time and space to finally pursue the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in all this.

Nothing new

There is nothing new about your charges. You've been repeating them since the 1992 splits even as I have on various occasions addressed them directly, and in ways reflecting my desire to clarify, to be self-critical and to de-escalate the continuing tension due to the CPP splits. Yet where an "elder statesman" is called for, you insist on a scorched earth approach that only muddles up issues and demonizes personalities. Later, you have them killed.

Why pick on me for the anti-DPA (deep penetration agent) campaign in Mindanao known as Kampanyang Ahos? You know perfectly well that Kampanyang Ahos and other anti-DPA campaigns were collectively affirmed, approved, reaffirmed and undertaken by the CPP leadership, national and regional, since 1981 until it almost wrecked the party in 1988.

You know that Kampanyang Ahos is not the first anti-DPA campaign. Before it, there was Cadena de Amor in Southern Tagalog in 1981. It was assessed and deemed necessary but with excesses by the Central Committee in 1985. Kampanyang Ahos was in 1985-early 1986. Then, Operation Missing Link (OPML) and the national "Save the Center" plot in Southern Tagalog in 1988. That same year, the campaign spread to Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Cordillera. The year before, Cagayan Valley was in the middle of a similar campaign. How could all this have happened without the imprimatur of an organizational policy and practice?

Politburo document

As to Kampanyang Ahos, I will not speak for myself. I will just allow the CPP Politburo to speak about it, in a document titled: "Resolutions of the Political Bureau (PB) of the Central Committee (CC), February 1988."*

The salient points of the document are as follows: 1) "In general, the centralized anti-DPA campaign in Mindanao is correct and necessary." 2) "The PB of the CC criticized the Mindanao Commission (Mindacom) and the regional committees involved for their weaknesses and shortcomings, for not adopting appropriate measures in time to protect the Party organization so as to avoid panic, mutual suspicion on a wide scale, and excesses." 3) "The Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the CC (EC-CC) have a share in the accountability for the excesses of the campaign:

3-a) The Mindacom chair and another member were tied up for almost a year attending the CC plenum; the key cadres who knew the situation and the forces better were absent from the field when the campaign started. 3-b) The special group formed by the EC-CC to provide crisis management to the campaign helped come up with guidelines but failed to consolidate in a report the investigations, conclusions and policies."

4) "The Mindacom chair did not bring the matter up to the CC in plenum ... However, he brought it up to the EC-CC immediately after the plenum."

Central player

In Kampanyang Ahos, the national leadership was a central player. Benito Tiamzon, your CPP vice chair today, headed the EC-CC special group on the campaign. And who composed the EC-CC then, which also affirmed Cadena de Amor before? Did they not include aside from Benito, Rafael Baylosis and Antonio Cabanatan who are now on your side, and Rodolfo Salas who was chair and on whom you are silent?

Who composed the PB of 1988 which upheld the correctness and necessity of Kampanyang Ahos? Did they not include Benito Tiamzon, Wilma Austria-Tiamzon (your CPP secretary general), Leo Velasco, Rafael Baylosis, Antonio Cabanatan and Jose Luneta who are all now in your "Reaffirm" CPP?

You also know that this PB decision paved the way for OPML and other anti-DPA campaigns, which raged in 1987-1988. Benito and Wilma guided the Metro Manila campaign and monitored the other regional campaigns. Luneta headed OPML. Velasco was at the helm of the Northern Luzon commission when anti-DPA campaigns in Cagayan Valley took place.

Are they not also "criminals?" Or are they not "criminals" because they sided with you in your "rectification cum purge" campaign and now form the core of the Reaffirm CPP leadership?

Cleared

You know that I had nothing to do with 1987-1988 decisions because I was being investigated for possibly being a DPA myself and that it took some time before I was cleared. You know all this because you were briefed by an EC-CC emissary in Utrecht, The Netherlands through whom you gave your blessings to the 1988 campaigns. You even asked for an investigation of four CPP leaders suspected of having links with the military: ex-head of NDF work, and heads of the mass movement, finance and trade union commissions.

Policy and practice notwithstanding, individuals must still account. You know that I was not in Mindanao at that time as attested to by the PB 1988 document. But you also know that I have always been ready to face more accountability than that. I have repeatedly said so for the last 12 years.

Yet, you keep on weaving tales against me, which only become more fantastic as years go by. You accuse me of spreading Kahos to Manila as if I could command the EC-CC or NCR-based Party organs to do my bidding, when I was not even a member of these organs then. Your Dave Barrios story is specious and a cynical use of persons living and dead to justify more killings.

Honest accounting

And this "espionage" and "Delfin" thing. This is triple jeopardy. The PB twice cleared me of this, in 1987 and 1988, and even criticized Salas for committing serious security lapses and for making false accusation against leading critics of his failed 1986 snap election boycott policy.

Jose Maria Sison, let us have real, honest and soul-searching accounting of all this. Let us face each other before an impartial body, not your "people's court," which is a kangaroo court and one whose judges are guilty of the crimes they are supposed to evaluate.

Let the process be fair and thorough. This we owe to the victims and their families, to everyone who joined the movement and to the younger generation of activists who deserve to be freed from the moral burden of this injustice.

**Original in Filipino, translation mine. Document to be posted on inq7.net. CPP documents during this period are more open and self-critical, unlike those in 1991 onwards, which were made to suit Sison's "reaffirm" line.*

(Reyes is a former CPP leader.)

> *Let's face each other before an impartial body, not your "people's court," which is a kangaroo court and one whose judges are guilty of the crimes they are supposed to evaluate*

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Reyes is culpable for Kampanyang Ahos

By Prof. Jose Maria Sison

The negotiating panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has received information from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the people's prosecution office that Ricardo Reyes is facing criminal charges related to Kampanyang Ahos and other crimes and that there is prima facie evidence against him to support the warrant issued by the people's court for his arrest.

The most serious charge against Reyes involves Kampanyang Ahos and has been pending long before the formation of Akbayan. Since 1992, he has been formally charged before the people's court with abusing his high position in the CPP Mindanao Commission and with violating human rights by instigating, approving and conducting Kampanyang Ahos.

This campaign involved the kidnapping, torture and murder of hundreds of CPP cadres and members, New People's Army (NPA) commanders and fighters and mass activists who were falsely accused of being enemy deep penetration agents (DPAs). It was a bloody witchhunt reminiscent of medieval times in Europe. The accused were deprived of the right to due process and other democratic rights.

Caretaker committee

As deputy secretary of the Mindanao Commission, Reyes systematically spread the hysterical claim that DPAs had heavily infiltrated the revolutionary organizations in Mindanao. While the secretary of the commission Benjamin de Vera was in Luzon, Reyes, as deputy, approved in mid-1985 the formation of the so-called caretaker committee to carry out Kampanyang Ahos. This campaign raged in the second half of 1985 and continued up to several months in 1986.

Reyes extended the campaign to the national capital and tried to malign as DPAs, some prominent mass leaders of the national democratic movement, falsely accusing them of criminal links with those arrested as DPAs in Mindanao.

The CPP Executive Committee defended and protected the mass leaders and stopped Reyes from making a pogrom in the national capital.

But still Reyes managed to carry out the abduction of Dave Barrios from the UCCP building in 1986, with the assistance of Nathan Quimpo and an armed team assigned by Romulo Kintanar. Reyes was the one who twice injected the drug to put Barrios to sleep and who drove the car that brought the victim to a safehouse for torture and murder. The testimonies of two direct witnesses are among the evidence before the people's court.

Poison article

When he was investigated in 1987 for allegedly causing the 1986 arrest of Rodolfo Salas by informing the enemy, Reyes admitted to the investigating committee that he had signed up in 1982 as an intelligence asset of then Col. Robert Delfin but that he had done so to become a double agent, with loyalty to the CPP. This finding of the investigating committee could not be further pursued due to enemy offensives in the National Capital Region and in the countryside from 1988 to 1991.

In the years leading to the start of the Second Great Rectification Movement (SGRM) in 1992, Reyes secretly wrote anti-CPP poison articles under the direction of a team run by the Bureau of Foreign Intelligence of the US State Department.

During the SGRM, Reyes publicly attacked the CPP and received "consultancy fees" from a Ford Foundation-financed "nongovernmental organization" (NGO) and another NGO funded by the US Agency for International Development.

Surrender

According to the CPP, it is looking further into what apparently could be a continuing criminal career of Reyes and into his criminal liabilities indicated by the following circumstances:

1. Akbayan has collaborated with the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police not only in psywar operations and in the commission of electoral fraud and terrorism against the six progressive parties in the party list but also in deploying Akbayan officers and members as informers in murderous operations against the revolutionary forces and people in Batangas, the Bondoc Peninsula, Mindoro provinces, Agusan, Davao provinces and Bukidnon.

2. Akbayan has organized local armed gangs acting as the barangay intelligence network (BIN) and paramilitary units of the armed forces of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). For instance, Pedro (otherwise known as Dioscoro) Tejino, who is being misrepresented in the press by Etta Rosales as an innocent poor farmer, "hounded" by the NPA and "hiding" in Manila for more than one year, is actually the gang leader of the BIN in the Bondoc Pensinsula. Twenty-nine peasants of San Narciso, Quezon denounced him as a military agent on March 2, 2004, responsible for terrorizing and destroying the local peasant association.

According to the CPP, there is prima facie evidence that Reyes is engaged in very recent criminal acts against revolutionary forces but he must face first the charges against him for Kampanyang Ahos. He is required to surrender himself for investigation to the authorities of the people's revolutionary government.

It is advisable for him not to resist the warrant of arrest issued by the people's court. Thus, he can avoid the risk of being regarded as an armed and dangerous criminal suspect, who is open to battle. In any legal system, the arresting team is authorized to act in self-defense against an armed suspect and his armed bodyguards, especially under the current conditions of civil war.

Barbaric

I am deeply interested in the truth about Kampanyang Ahos. First, because the families of victims and the people cry out for justice against this barbaric crime inflicted on the revolutionary forces and people. Second, because I wish to stop the ceaseless unjust attempts of the perpetrators of the crime to put the blame on me.

Since 1988, the US, Philippine and Dutch intelligence services have unjustly blamed Kampanyang Ahos on me to oppose my application for political asylum despite the fact that I was under maximum military detention from 1977 to March 1986. They have coddled the chief perpetrators of the crime and are using them for propaganda against the revolutionary forces.

Reyes should not obfuscate his criminal culpability or claim immunity by blaming others for Kampanyang Ahos or by citing other alleged crimes and claiming that these have not been properly dealt with. Under the legal and judicial system of the people's revolutionary government, the merits and demerits of a definite charge must be tackled according to the facts and the law.

Utterly wrong

As regards the question of line and policy about Kampanyang Ahos and similar phenomena, the SGRM has identified the major errors and shortcomings, and criticized, repudiated and rectified them. By undertaking the SGRM, the CPP has made clear that previous decisions by any organ that Kampanyang Ahos was a "complete revolutionary 'success" or "revolutionary success, with excesses" is utterly wrong.

The wrongdoers are accountable for their own politico-military errors like urban insurrectionism and crimes like Kampanyang Ahos. Crimes are distinguishable from political errors and are submitted to the legal and judicial system of the people's revolutionary government for investigation and possible trial.

I wish there were more space to discuss Kampanyang Ahos and other issues, including those raised by Walden Bello, Etta Rosales, Ronald Llamas, Riza Hontiveros and the staff of the Focus on Global South. But it is good to have some focus on Kampanyang Ahos here. The readers can get further information about issues from www.philippinerevolution.org.

(Sison is the NDFP chief political consultant. He is based in The Netherlands.)

> *He is required to surrender himself for investigation to the authorities of the people's revolutionary government*

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INQUIRER *Mindanao*

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Power flickers in worries, hopes

THE GROWING need for electricity in Mindanao and the Visayas has flicked the switch on to worries over whether there would be enough supply of power and also to the search for alternatives to traditional sources of energy.

In some areas in Mindanao, businessmen are already pushing panic buttons out of fear that by the time more factories, offices and homes start to need more electricity, there would be none.

In another area on the island, however, hope is drawn on the horizon by private-sector efforts to tap alternative sources of energy that are inexhaustible.

Reacting to a National Transmission Corp. projection that Mindanao would run short of power starting this year, businessmen who attended the 6th Davao Business Conference and the 2nd Davao del Sur Business Conference sent messages of concern to the government.

In a resolution, the businessmen identified problems in transmission as their immediate source of worry.

Romeo Serra, vice chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said while a coal-fired power plant and the Pulangi 4, another power plant, were to be completed in 2006, these "cannot be enjoyed by southern Mindanao."

A transmission line that would bring the electricity that these plants would generate to consumers in the region, he said, "will not be completed until the latter part of 2007."

He said the NTC plans to connect power grids from Leyte, a rich source of geothermal power, to Mindanao at a cost of $350 million, which is cheaper because "building two to three base load plants will be more expensive than building one submarine cable."

Partnerships

One solution that the businessmen see is for the government to enter into partnerships with the private sector in building the required infrastructure to ensure continued power supply in Mindanao.

But just as businessmen and energy officials pore over power blueprints and plans that involve hundreds of millions of pesos, volunteers and residents in a small village called Magsaysay in Marilog, Davao City, is showing how action is sometimes cheaper and more efficient than talk.

Magsaysay village was a stranger to electricity for centuries, according to one village official, until the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore), a program funded by the US Aid for International Development, came.

The Yamog Renewable Energy Development Corp., which carries out Amore projects in Davao, introduced the village to solar power.

"Lighting up these areas formerly known as rebel-controlled is one way of attaining peace," says Girlie Castillo, a community organizer of Yamog.

Early last year, engineers arrived to put up solar panels in Magsaysay.

Since the road to the village was bad, they had to carry solar modules from the highway on foot for fear that the punishment that their vehicles would take on the village road would punish their precious cargo as well.

Castillo, the community organizer in the area, says she usually braces herself for each trip to Magsaysay because the motorcycle ride alone makes her body ache.

No power

The Department of Energy had identified Magsaysay as among the remaining villages in the country that has not yet been reached by electricity.

But no power company dared set foot on the village of 564 households since it was not profitable.

The Magsaysay solar energy project is just one of the Amore projects in Mindanao, which seek to shoot two birds with one stone—provide electricity and convince rebels to lay down their firearms for plows.

The USAID has poured in $7.99 million for projects to light up the most depressed areas of Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Sulu, Maguindanao, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Davao.

As of May this year, the project has lighted up close to 4,000 households, 131 community centers, 262 streets and 132 barangays all over Mindanao, according to a report by Amore.

Each solar system package is capable of lighting up 30 households, according to Castillo.

Beneficiaries have to organize themselves into a group to manage the project. The package features solar modules that convert sunlight to direct current (DC) electricity, which is stored in a battery to power fluorescent lamps at home and streetlights outside.

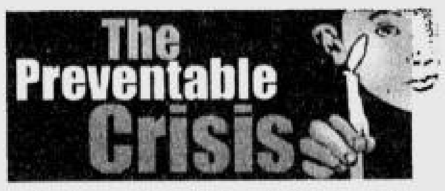
People have to charge their solar batteries at solar charging stations.

Ontalan Pandacan, a village councilor of Magsaysay, says his 12-volt battery lasts up to 10 days.

"We usually have the lights on from six to nine at night," he says, "My children can now study their lessons at night. We don't have other appliances."

Biggest contributor

One of the biggest contributors to the project to electrify 1,000 villages nationwide is Mirant, which has poured in $20 million for the project.



In Tawi-Tawi, Amore put up a solar tunnel dryer for cleaner, faster, high-quality drying of fish.

It is about to finish a solar-powered seaweeds processing project there, while packaging other livelihood programs in other parts of Mindanao.

In Barangay Napok in Datu Paglas and Barangay Sumakubay in SK Pendatun in Maguindanao, people have installed a solar-powered public calling office.

"There is hope, after all," says Gerry Hadjirul, in the small village of Lower Cabengbeng, in the once conflict-ridden town of Sumisip, Basilan.

Before Amore's solar panels, Hadjirul's family used the palipaan, kerosene lamps made of glass bottles or tin cans, which emit fumes dangerous to health. Now, they have fluorescent lights.

The search for electricity is not an immediate concern, however, for Eastern Visayas.

Dwight Maxino, resident manager of the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC), said the region hosts the world's second biggest geothermal reserve that could "last a lifetime."

The region sends some of this generous supply of energy to other provinces.

Adding more provinces to the list of those being supplied by the Tongonan Geothermal Field, however, would cost hundreds of millions of pesos, says Maxino.

The Tongonan Geothermal Field provides electricity to the Luzon and Visayas grids through submarine cables.

"The PNOC was created to search for alternative power sources. And, in our case, geothermal," Maxino told the INQUIRER.

Geothermal-dependent

The first drilling exploration in the area was done sometime in 1976, or three years after electricity from a geothermal source was first activated in the country. The distinction goes to the Tiwi and Makiling-Banahaw fields that now contribute more than 660 megawatts to the Luzon grid.

Maxino said about 13 percent of the country's electric consumption is supplied by geothermal sources, of which 60 percent is controlled by the PNOC-EDC.

He said the Leyte Geothermal Field has an estimated capacity of 708 MW.

"For the entire region, it is more than enough. In fact, in Leyte-Samar, that also include Southern Leyte and Biliran provinces, the peak demand is only 195 MW," Maxino said.

To Cebu and Panay, the state-owned power entity delivers 118 MW, while between 300 to 400 MW go to Luzon, said Maxino.

The energy business has been profitable for the PNOC-EDC, one of the very few government-owned and -controlled corporations that registered profits.

Based on its records, the PNOC-EDC generated P4.5 billion from their steam sales to the Luzon and Visayas grids. In 2002, the company earned P5.2 billion in steam sales.

The Tongonan geothermal field is also a source of revenue for Ormoc City and its nearby town Kananga (the geothermal field straddle both areas) and the Leyte provincial government.

Records from the company said last year alone, the PNOC-EDC paid more than P358 million in royalties to these local government units.

The money allows the PNOC-EDC to help.

"For example, we organized groups in the different barangays where the people themselves identify the projects that they could use to earn additional income," said Maxino.

"Our assistance does not end there. If they need technical help or market for their products, we help them," he said.

Scholarships

Maxino added they also give scholarships to poor but deserving high school students. Currently, about 180 high school students are PNOC-EDC scholars.

The PNOC-EDC also looks after the health conditions of the people, through the health stations the company has constructed in almost all 12 barangays located in the area.

Reforestation also helps protect the geothermal reserve by ensuring that the forest cover in the geothermal complex would remain lush.

Maxino said the PNOC-EDC has conducted reforestation projects covering the entire 107,000-hectare area. It has its own environment division that looks after the protection of the forest area of the complex.

With sound management and cooperation extended by the people residing within the complex, the projection of the PNOC-EDC that the Tongonan geothermal field may indeed last "even a lifetime" could prove true.

The concern for energy dates back to 1973 when, responding to an international oil crisis, the government, through the then National Power Corp., made a study entitled "Preliminary Geothermal Studies of the Geothermal Fields of Negros Island."

In 1974, the Commission on Volcanology (ComVol) together with New Zealand geologists and engineers conducted geological surveys at the thermal areas of the Okoy Valley, Valencia, a town some 11 km west of Dumaguete, and Tagbak, Mag-aso Dauin.

In 1975, Napocor took over the work of the ComVol and conducted the detailed geochemical, geological and resistivity surveys in the same areas, still with the help of New Zealand geologists and engineers.

In the same year, Presidential Decree 1413 was issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos declaring some 133,000 ha of land in Southern Negros, straddling the mountains of the city of Tanjay and the towns of Pamplona, Amlan, San Jose, Sibulan, Valencia, Bacong Dauian, Zamboanguita and Siaton as a geothermal reservation.

The PNOC-EDC took over the project from Napocor in 1976.

In 1983, the three geothermal plants in Barangays Puhagan amd Caidiocan called Palinpinon 1 (PAL 1) were commissioned. PAL 1 generates 112.5 MW.

In 1984, PAL 1 began supplying electricity to Bacolod, via the Mabinay-Bacolod transmission line. In 1990, it also started to supply power to Panay Island.

Ten years after, four additional geothermal plants in Barangays Puhagan and Caidiocan dubbed as PAL 2 were commissioned, generating 80 MW. With PAL 2, geothermal power from Valencia was brought to Cebu, through the Negros-Cebu submarine cable.

Hope in plants

But the search for alternative sources of energy continues.

In Sorsogon City, experts are studying two native plants as alternative sources of fuel, which could help lessen the country's oil and pollution problems.

The Department of Agrarian Reform and the Philippine Coconut Authority are encouraging farmers to propagate the Bicol indigenous plants tuba-tuba (*tubang baboy* in Tagalog) and hanga (petroleum nut, locally known as *tago-ngirit*) as they can be sources of bio-diesel. *Reports from Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Romy Amarado and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau and Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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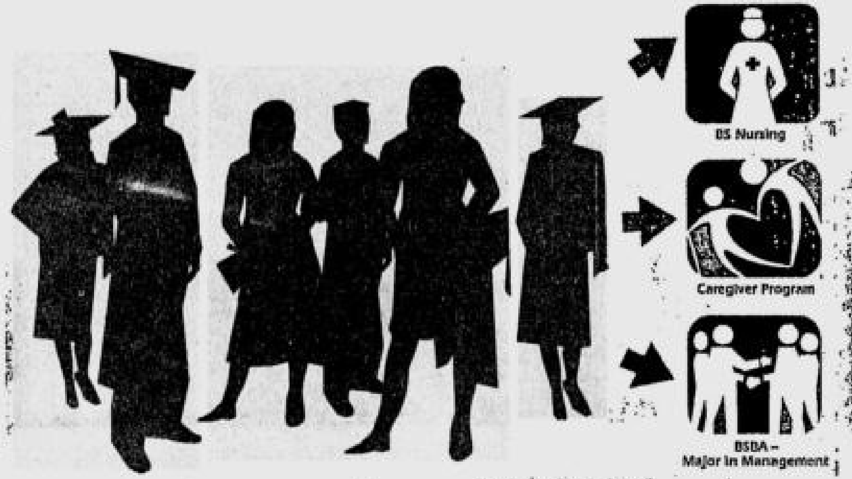

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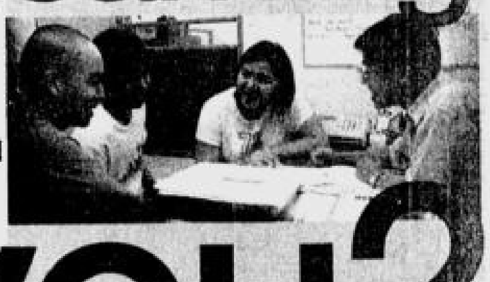

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By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOCAUE, Bulacan—A group of businessmen accused the vice mayor and members of the local council of demanding P10 million from them in exchange for the issuance of permits and other documents that the firm would need in establishing an industrial park here.

Officials of the Bocaue Golden City Business Park, a joint venture of the World Wood Trading Corp. and Centerpoint Real Estate Construction Corp., said Vice Mayor Kennedy Valdez and members of the town council have been harassing them after they failed to complete the amount that the officials allegedly asked as "SOP" (for standard operating procedure, a euphemism for grease money).

Amir Pascual, a representative of majority investor World Wood, told the INQUIRER on Saturday that they gave the local officials P300,000 in exchange for the council's endorsement of the project and the release of permits and documents they needed.

Pascual said the money was received by a councilor on Dec. 13 last year after a council session.

The 10-hectare Golden City Business Park, which covers the villages of Wakas, Caingin and Taal, was planned to be the second industrial city in this town that would host the operations of more than 40 rice millers.

Valdez, however, denied Pascual's claim that he and members of the Bocaue council asked P10 million from the investors.

"I'm still trying to identify the people behind these accusations that ruined my good name and reputation. There is no truth to these charges. I'm planning to bring these people to court for maligning me," Valdez said in Filipino.

Valdez, who served as councilor from 1998 to 2004, is serving his first term as vice mayor.

The business park's construction started in 1997 but the council passed a resolution in 1998 preventing the investors from proceeding with the project due to supposed violations.

Pascual, however, said they stopped the project after the investors suffered financial difficulties and was pressured by local officials then.

In November last year, a new set of investors revived the project and sought the approval of the new set of council members. But the council passed a resolution reiterating its position in 1998 and which prevented it from pursuing the project.

The council, in its November resolution, said the investors should not be given a development permit because of a pending petition by a group of residents against the project and the supposed lack of public hearing.

Residents belonging to the Uresa Neighborhood Association filed the petition, citing the possible health hazard from the mills' wastes (or husks).

But Pascual said the project area is an "open site" and is far from residential areas.

Valdez told the INQUIRER that the investors had failed to present to the council a locational clearance from the municipal planning and development council and various clearances from other government agencies for the project.

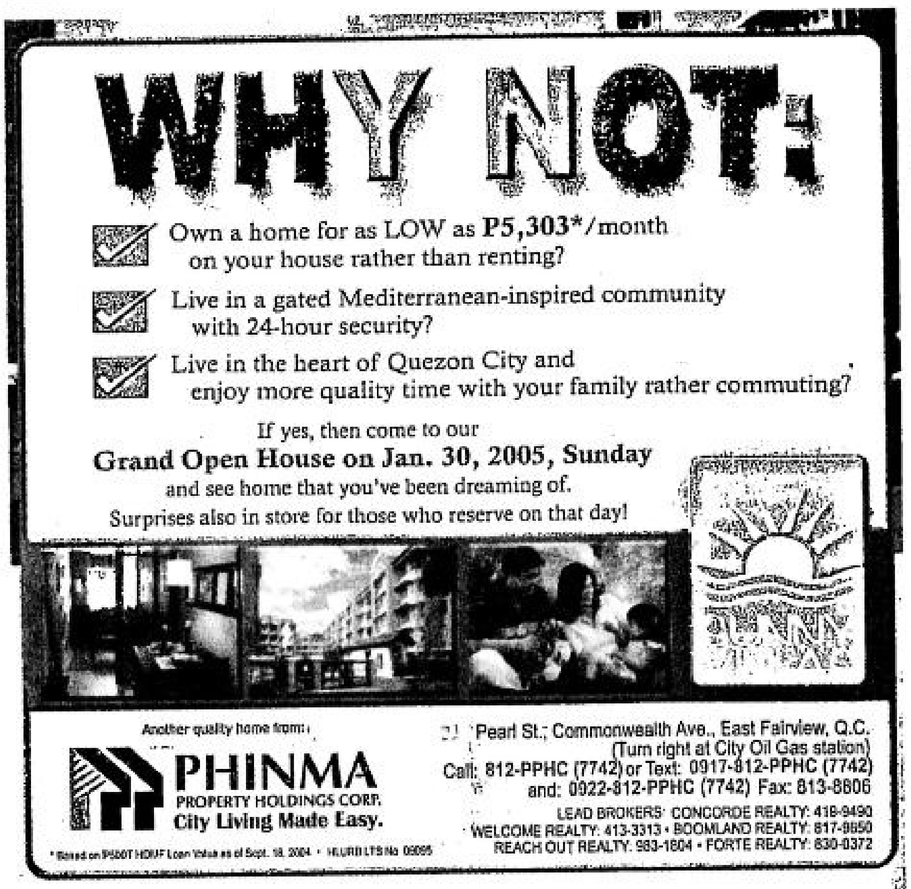
He said the development permit that the investors presented has yet to be checked and authenticated by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board.

Pending the document's authentication, Valdez said the council must temporarily stop the investors from proceeding with the project.

The council resolution said the investors also lacked a land conversion permit from the Department of Agrarian Reform and construction work for the project caused flooding in several villages during the rainy season.

It said portions of the project area remain classified as residential and agricultural areas, and not industrial or commercial sites.

Mayor Serafin dela Cruz said Valdez and the councilors should prove that they did not receive any money or exerted any pressure on the investors.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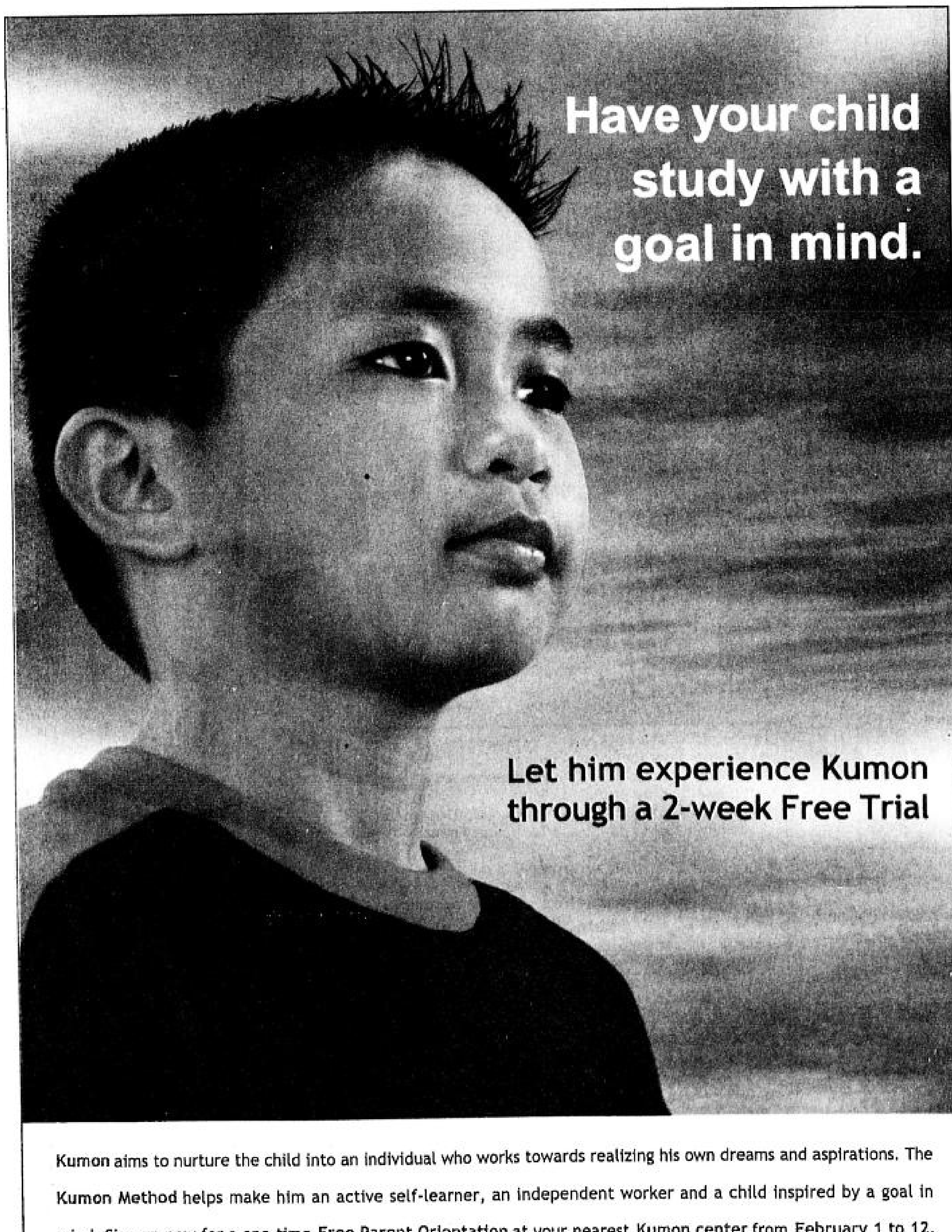
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KUMON

New team formed to track drug fiends

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A task force composed of members of intelligence personnel from different law enforcement agencies have been formed to track down drug personalities and law enforcers involved in the illegal drug trade.

A brainchild of Negros Oriental Gov. George P. Arnaiz, the task force was created last week to enhance and strengthen provincial government's anti-drug campaign.

"There is really a need for all the law enforcement agencies to be helping each other in order to gain headway in the campaign against illegal drugs," the governor said.

He said that in the past, law enforcers from the different agencies tend to keep their respective intelligence reports for their own consumption because there was no proper coordination.

The governor said sharing of information would be a major factor in building up cases against those involved in the drug trade.

Provincial Prosecutor Diosdado Hermosa has earlier lamented that many drug cases were dismissed because of lack of evidence.

To be headed by the Philippine National Police (PNP) provincial director, the task force will be composed of two representatives each from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Dumaguete PNP, police provincial office, . Maritime Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

ROUNDUP

Flycatchers in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The *panal*, Ibanag term for flycatchers, are back in Cagayan, as they are yearly when the weather is cold. Farmers love the *panal*'s piercing chirps and their feasting on insects, especially grasshoppers. A small beauty, flycatchers are difficult to catch as they peck back with their sharp bills and claws. They usually disappear once the summer heat starts.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected vigilantes fall

CABANATUAN CITY—Police on Wednesday arrested seven suspected members of the Red Vigilante Group (RVG), two of them in the list of top 10 wanted persons in Central Luzon. Among those arrested in separate places in Nueva Ecija, according to Supt. Roel Obusan, chief of the provincial intelligence and investigation bureau of the Nueva Ecija police, were Joey Ceña and Crisanto de la Cruz, No. 4 and No. 5, respectively, in the wanted list. They are facing charges of robbery and kidnap for ransom. Others arrested were Henry Vero, Wilson Cruz, Joven Castillo, Crisanto Mateo, and Rolando Cruz.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wetland Day in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—The World Wetland Day will be celebrated for the first time on Feb. 2 at the Naujan Lake National Park. The official markers will be presented to declare Naujan as a "wetland of international importance" under Ramsar Convention, an international agreement that promotes conservation and sustainable use of wetland areas. There will also be viewing of migratory birds.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Hot' lumber seized in 2004

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 346.76 cubic meters of illegally cut and transported forest products amounting to P4.2 million were confiscated in Bicol last year, according to a report from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office here. Alfredo S. Araya, DENR regional public affairs office chief, said Camarines Norte topped the list with the most confiscated illegal lumber with 95.57 cubic meters, followed by Camarines Sur with 90.92 cubic meters. Masbate had the least seizure with 22.14 cubic meters. Araya noted that not all the confiscated lumber products were taken from Bicol. Some came from the Visayas and were intercepted at the Matnog port in Sorsogon. The amount of seized lumber slightly dropped from 355 cubic meters in 2003 to 346.76 cubic meters last year.

Leo Martin B. Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Nabbed for poking gun

ROXAS CITY—The police on Tuesday arrested a 14-year-old boy who allegedly poked a .38 caliber revolver at his classmate. Supt. Rene Aspera, Roxas police director, said no case would be filed against the suspect until he reaches the age of majority. The minor was turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The police recovered the gun from the suspect, which was loaded with five bullets.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

San Fernando customs employees protesting return of collector

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Employees of the Bureau of Customs' district here have opposed the reinstatement of the district collector who was suspended for six months last year by the Ombudsman.

In two manifestos, copies of which were given to President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials, the employees said Alberta Iglesias, San Fernando district collector, "does not possess the integrity and good moral character of a public official," citing several acts she committed that "debased her office."

The employees cited several administrative and criminal cases filed against Iglesias in various courts here and in the cities of Baguio, Makati and Manila.

Two of such cases were for violation of the Antielectricity Pilferage Act of 1994 and the Antigraft and Corrupt Practices Act filed, respectively, by the La Union Electric Co. and the National Bureau of Investigation based in this city.

'Self-serving'

Another case is pending before the customs commissioner for the loss of 502 cases of imported cigarettes that were later discovered in the garage of her rented cottage here, the employees said in one of the manifestos.

But Iglesias laughed off the manifestos' contents and called these as "self-serving."

She said these were initiated by Rogelio Rabanal, acting sub-port collector at the Laoag International Airport, who, she said, had a grudge against her.

Iglesias said she had filed charges against Rabanal before the Civil Service Commission for forging his daily time records.

Rabanal, in a telephone interview, told the INQUIRER that while almost 40 of the more than 70 customs district employees signed the manifestos, only three customs personnel were actually supporting Iglesias.

He said most employees wanted Iglesias out of the Ilocos region. The customs district covers ports in Laoag and Currimao (Ilocos Norte), Sual (Pangasinan) and Aparri (Cagayan).

"Iglesias' charges that I filed forged DTRs were just figments of her imagination. The CSC had cleared me," Rabanal said.

Iglesias, who is also facing a graft case filed by the Department of Finance's revenue integrity protection service, reassumed her post as acting customs collector early this month.

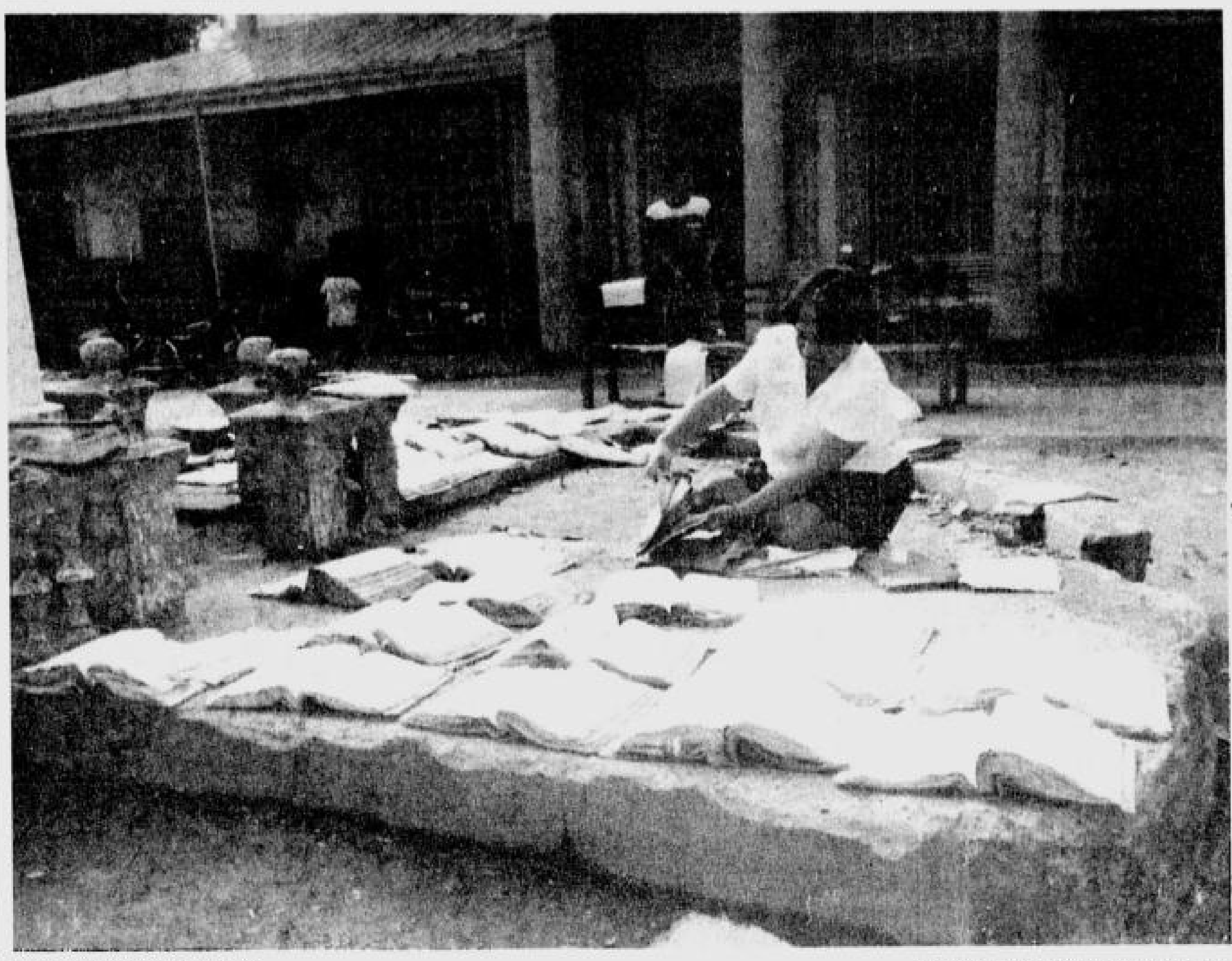
Status quo

However, a subsequent memorandum issued by outgoing Customs Commissioner George Jereos advised her to "maintain the status quo" and assume her functions as deputy collector, her regular appointment.

But Iglesias disregarded the memo, went to the regional trial court here and successfully obtained a 20-day temporary restraining order.

When the TRO expired, she again went to court and on Jan. 25, RTC Judge Adolfo Alagar issued a 15-day writ of preliminary injunction asking BoC officials to stop from further issuing conflicting orders to "avoid chaos in (Bureau of Customs) District 1."

Alagar also asked lawyer Juan Tan, who replaced Iglesias when she was suspended, not to exercise the functions of district collector until the case is resolved. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



RESCUE OPERATION

ROMULO O. PONTE/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

An employee of the Infanta municipal government tries to save documents damaged by the flash floods that hit north Quezon in December last year.

Judge says convict in Javier slay case plotting to kill him

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The judge who presided over the trial of the murder case of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier fears for his life after one of those he convicted managed to slip out of jail allegedly with a plot to have him killed.

Judge Rudy Castrojas, presiding judge of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12, said the police has provided him with "elaborate" security measures after receiving reports that Eleazar Idemne and several unidentified persons were seen in Castrojas' hometown in Pototan in Iloilo.

Police were mum on the alleged plot and Idemne's escape from the Antique rehabilitation center where the convicts are detained.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Western Visayas police director, refused to comment when reached by the INQUIRER through his mobile phone. "I haven't heard of that report," Antique police director Supt. Ronilo Quebrar said in a separate telephone interview.

But Castrojas said it was the police who informed him of the alleged plot. He said several of his town mates who know Idemne said they saw the convict on Dec. 23.

On Oct. 12 last year, Castrojas convicted Idemne along with seven others for Javier's murder and the wounding of several others. Also convicted were lawyer Avelino Javellana, former Constabulary Captain John Paloy, Vicente Vegafria, Ramon Hortillano, Henry Salaver and Rolando Bernardino.

Castrojas acquitted former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, the alleged mastermind, and three other accused.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez confirmed that Idemne managed to slip out of jail without authorization. But she said the prisoner is "already back."

Castrojas said the convicted prisoners have been under the jurisdiction of Perez after he issued an order committing the prisoners to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa shortly after he promulgated the resolution on the case.

He said he has already sent the records of the case to the Court of Appeals after Javellana and five others convicted appealed the ruling.

When asked by the INQUIRER why the convicted have not been sent to the national penitentiary nearly four months after Castrojas issued the order, Perez said the provincial government "has no money" to pay for their transfer which would cost "around P100,000.

Perez said she has ordered provincial administrator Manuel Salazar to look for funds and remit those convicted in the Javier murder next week.

Army chief denies CIA working with RP troops

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Army chief, said foreign support to the country's war against terrorism has been limited to training programs, belying reports that the United States has stepped up its intelligence network inside Philippine territory.

But Senga said he had no information regarding the number of foreign intelligence personnel that are being sent to the country under an intelligence sharing arrangement that was crafted in 2004, to link member-nations of the US-led "coalition of the willing."

He said no operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency, the American intelligence group mandated to operate outside US shores, have linked up with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He said the military only coordinates with foreign countries through intelligence training programs that are designed to flush out terrorist cells.

Senga was honored here by the Philippine Military Academy on Saturday.

The PMA also received Maj. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, director for strategic planning and policy of the US Pacific Command. Eikenberry was here as part of his tour of military camps in the country.

"The threat of terrorism, which is on a global [scale] can be addressed by everybody [by] sharing whatever information can be shared so that the targets can be identified," Senga said.

"In the case of the US Armed Forces, what has been done is for them to train our intelligence units so that capabilities can be improved, but I don't know anything about [CIA operatives]," he told the INQUIRER.

"The Constitution is very clear, no foreign force can conduct operations in this country and I believe the government is adhering to the Constitution," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army chief orders rotation of officers in Abra

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The head of the Philippine Army ordered his officials to study rotating all of the Army units stationed in Abra, saying the military is ready to "take responsibility" for a supposed assassination plot planned by an Army official against a mayor in that province.

Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, Army chief, said Lt. Col. Noel Mislang, commander of the 41st Infantry Battalion in Abra, has been relieved and placed under the custody of Maj. Gen. Erickson Aurelio, 5th Infantry Division commander, for the official's supposed role in ordering the murder of Lagayan Mayor Cecilia Luna.

Senga said by replacing military personnel in Abra, they want to remove any impression that Army soldiers and officials could be part of armed groups hired by Abra politicians to kill their rivals.

The government has tasked both the police and the military with dismantling armed groups that are reportedly maintained by some Abra politicians.

Senga said the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Office of the Army Inspector General has started its own investigation of Mislang's role in the case.

"We are concerned about the case. We are taking responsibility if there will be any [Army personnel who will be convicted]. We will take action, if somebody has to be punished," Senga told reporters here on Saturday.

The investigation involved the Dec. 17, 2004 affidavit of Privates Eduardo Barcelona and Antonio Rosqueta implicating Mislang in the plot to kill Luna and her family members.

On Dec. 22 last year, five days after they executed the affidavit, Rosqueta and Barcelona were ambushed in Isabela.

Rosqueta died in that attack while Barcelona survived but has gone into hiding.

Their affidavits surfaced amid a review being conducted by Cordillera police officials on the strategies that the police implemented to disband Abra's private armies.

Abra Gov. Vicente Valera, Luna's political opponent, was implicated in the plot. Valera, however, denied the allegations.

"The [Army] investigation is ongoing. The investigation has been hampered because one of the key witnesses (Barcelona) decided to flee [from authorities], although he has given a statement earlier. This [affidavit] does not have to be verified in a military legal panel... At this point, we cannot make any conclusions yet," Senga said.

"But if the investigation concludes [that Army members were involved in the plot], then I will have to clear members of the [military]," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cavite steel plant denies causing pollution

CALAMBA CITY—A steel manufacturing company accused of causing pollution and health hazards by an environmentalist organization and residents of Trece Martires City, Cavite, denied violating environmental laws set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Reacting to a story published in the INQUIRER, Bienvenido Dulce Jr., vice president of Sonic Steel Industries Inc. (SSII), claimed their company has strictly complied with government-sanctioned systems of running steel manufacturing plants such as the one they operate in Barangay Hugo Perez in Trece Martires City.

Luciano Hornilla, Environment Management Bureau Calabarzon director, had earlier issued a closure warning to SSII for its alleged failure to have a wastewater facility at the plant.

The warning came after a multi-sectoral fact-finding team visited the company's plant last Jan. 5. The investigation was prompted by a report of the environmentalist group Earth Savers Movement.

The group said local residents complained of health hazards posed by SSII's operations because it does not have any wastewater treatment facility.

But in an e-mailed statement, Dulce said that SSII used to maintain a wastewater treatment facility which broke down "because of regular wear and tear."

He said their water treatment unit has since undergone repair since November last year. He said they hope to finish the renovation of the facility in February.

"In the meantime, all wastewater in the plant are being stored in gigantic tanks and are never discharged. These stored wastewater will only be discharged after they were properly treated through the renovated treatment facility," Dulce explained.

He also denied causing pollution at the plant's vicinity. He said the technology employed by their plant in manufacturing its "SuperZinc galvanized" iron sheets and "Superlume aluminum-zinc-coated" sheets does not generate toxic or cause air pollution that could pose danger to the health and safety of the residents in the area.

Dulce explained that the former are produced using liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) while the latter uses electricity.

"As you may well know, LPG is a clean fuel that does not produce toxic emissions. Electricity, on the other hand, only creates heat that is ventilated through the factory's smoke stack," he said.

He added that the technology they use "does not only keep the environment clean, but ensures safety inside the plant as well."

Dulce also maintained that their company had never made any expansion projects that could violate the production capacity condition set in its environment compliance certificate.

"The ECC said (our) plant is allowed to produce 200 metric tons of GI sheets per day. Assuming the plant operates 365 days in a year without failure, that (would translate) to about 73,000 metric tons per year," he said.

Dulce said their records showed that after improvements done by SSII in its production process, "the company was only able to produce 50,000 to 55,000 metric tons every year, way below the maximum capacity stipulated in its ECC."

He then claimed that their company has steadily been "a very responsible and humble company."

"(Our) plant started out as a small facility and grew steadily over the years," he said. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Smuggled goods seized in Tawi-Tawi

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Philippine Navy confiscated some P5.7 million worth of assorted smuggled goods in Tawi-Tawi last week.

Commodore Rufino Lopes, Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander, said members of Naval Task Force 62 apprehended the contraband at sea from Jan. 20 to 21.

He said the imported goods did not have the corresponding importation papers.

Naval Task Force 62 commander Navy Captain Joel Babas said the smuggled items included biscuits, noodles and rice.

Babas said the boats came from Tawau, Malaysia.

The contraband was immediately turned over to the Bureau of Customs. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Iraq holding elections …

From page A1

constitution, and governing councils in the 18 provinces.

Campaigning has been low-key to say the least.

All the names of 7,600-odd candidates running on various lists for today's vote were only unveiled five days before the polls.

"We are aware of the dangers and risks of publicity so we kept the release of names to a minimum," explained Nimrud Baito Youkhana, secretary-general of the Assyrian Patriotic Party.

Electoral placards hastily plastered on Baghdad's walls by party activists are often speedily ripped off—not always by political opponents but also by residents who don't want to attract attention.

Beware, voters warned

The only posters no one dares to tear off are those glued by extremist groups themselves.

"The hand of the mujahedeen will reach all of the polling stations and the workers in it and all people who take part in it," read one poster.

In many areas, voters are reluctant to talk about the elections. At best, they say they will assess the situation on Sunday morning before deciding whether or not to make the perilous trip to the polling stations.

Many Iraqis plan to stay home, threatening the legitimacy of the vote.

Iraq's President Ghazi al-Yawer predicted that most Iraqis would not vote.

"We hope everyone will participate," he said. "But the majority prefer not to participate for fear of going out to polling stations."

Insurgent groups had warned that they would target anybody who approached a polling station. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been slapped on most of the country and travel restrictions enforced.

Turnout critical

Turnout will be critical in establishing the credibility of the election that could see the majority Shiite Muslim community take a leading role in ruling an Arab country for the first time in centuries.

The Iraqi election commission predicted a 57 percent national turnout.

"There are 14.2 million eligible voters and we think about eight million will come to vote," a spokesperson for the commission said.

Shiite win seen

Polls open at 7 a.m. Iraq time (8 p.m. in Manila) and close at 5 p.m. (6 a.m. Monday in Manila).

The United States hopes the election will help bring democracy to Iraq, but it risks further alienating minority Sunni Arabs. Several Sunni Arab parties are boycotting the ballot, saying the insurgency in their heartlands makes voting impossible.

An alliance of candidates formed under the guidance of Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, is almost certain to win the most votes.

Enemy territory

One senior US military officer has acknowledged that there was nowhere in the wide area of Baghdad assigned to his troops that could be considered safe.

"I would definitely say it's enemy territory," said Col. Stephen R. Lanza, commander of the 5th Brigade Combat Team.

Starkly put, Baghdad is not under control, either by the Iraqi interim government or the US military.

Stepped-up violence

In the past several days, Baghdad was hit by seven suicide car bombings, 37 roadside bombs and 52 insurgent attacks. Since Wednesday, at least 54 Iraqis and 12 US troops have been killed in insurgent attacks.

Iraq on Saturday sealed its frontiers and imposed other draconian security measures to counter the insurgents' deadly campaign of intimidation.

Tens of thousands of security forces were deployed in the streets on Saturday to stifle insurgent attacks in the final hours before the election.

Cities were like ghost towns as most of the population waited nervously at home to see if it would be safe enough to vote.

In Baghdad and other cities, people rushed to shops and supermarkets to stock up on essential goods in anticipation of a violent weekend that would keep them confined to their homes.

Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh announced the capture of three senior Zarqawi followers and expressed hopes that the militant leader himself would soon be caught. The three Zarqawi operatives arrested included his commander for Baghdad.

Zarqawi, who has a $25-million bounty on his head, has pledged to kill anyone who votes in a poll he says is designed to bring Iraq's "infidel" Shi'ite majority to power.

Sunnis for boycott

A Zogby International poll released in Washington showed 76 percent of Iraq's Sunni Arabs plan to boycott the vote.

The survey of 805 Iraqi adults living in Iraq conducted for Abu Dhabi TV also showed about 80 percent of Shiites were likely to or definitely planned to vote. *Inquirer wires, New York Times*

'Our belief stronger than car bombs'

BAGHDAD—For some, it has been a wait for democracy for more than half a century, and they are not passing up the chance to make it work—despite threats that they could die on their way to the polling stations.

"We are going to show the terrorists that their car bombs are not stronger than our belief," said Sheik Jalal al-Sajhir, urging his followers to go to the polls Sunday no matter their fears.

"The day of our victory will be Sunday," the Shiite candidate for the national assembly told 1,000 people assembled before him as the roar of bomb and mortar blasts rumbled across the capital bracing for a violent final day before the polls opened.

Al-Sajhir is one of those not afraid to vote in the historic elections.

Said laborer Dargham Mehdi, who claimed he would also vote: "Under Saddam, we had to vote for Saddam. This time we can vote for whoever we want. Why else call it democracy?"

In Detroit, home to the largest Iraqi community in America, poll workers cheered as a trickle of absentee voters cast their ballots Friday.

Pointing to his finger, dyed with indelible blue ink, Detroit resident Khadim Al-Khafaji said: "This is my finger I push in Saddam's eye."

Apathy, fear

But many of Al-Khafaji's compatriots in his homeland were apathetic, if not afraid.

"The outcome of these elections has already been decided," Saleh Eid, a landowner from Mahmoudiya, said. "I believe 99 percent of us here will not vote."

Al-Ghiriri, a retired police officer, agreed.

"I will stay home on Sunday," he said. "It's the safest place." *Inquirer wires*

VAT faces Senate defeat

From page A1

plier, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer would pass off the additional tax to the consumer.

He observed that in such a setup, "the consumer is the tax bearer, not the taxpayer."

"And when they all start taking to the streets, this will become a political problem [for President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration]," he said.

On Friday, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the opposition in the chamber would likely join the anti-VAT mass actions planned by militant groups. He also said the opposition would mount a "people's congress" to allow the public "ample opportunity" to air concerns and opinions on the VAT bill.

But two congressmen who voted for the bill yesterday appealed for the immediate passage of its Senate version to help the cash-strapped government.

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, both of the ruling Lakas and both members of the committee on ways and means that spearheaded the passage of the bill in the House, assured senators that their reservations would be addressed at the bicameral committee hearings.

Turnaround

After insisting all week that the VAT increase would not trigger a rise in prices of basic food items, Ms Arroyo's spokesperson is singing a different tune.

"We're not saying that there is no effect [on the prices]. What we're saying is we will cushion the effects, minimize the impact as much as possible," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said over RMN radio.

"The slight effect of VAT on socially sensitive products shall be tempered by a vigilant price watch and measures to ensure a stable supply of basic commodities," he said in a statement.

Bunye had said in all his interviews last week that staples bought by the poor, like sardines and noodles, would not be affected because they were "VAT-exempt."

Safety nets

Asked yesterday to comment on the position of business and consumer groups that the VAT increase would bring about a chain reaction of price increases, Bunye said: *"Abangan ang susunod* (Let's see what happens). The government of President Arroyo is seriously thinking of ways to protect our mass consumers.

"The bottom line is if there will be an effect on the poorest of the poor. As far as they are concerned, we have safety nets, and we will try to cushion the effects of this VAT increase."

Bunye reiterated that increasing the VAT as a means of generating additional revenues for the government would redound to the public benefit in terms of the delivery of basic social services such as housing, medical assistance, education, water and electricity.

"Let us not whip up irrational fears but dwell on the positive results of our improving fiscal situation, especially the steady upsurge of the economy that is a harbinger of more jobs and livelihood opportunities," he said.

Palace not alarmed

According to Bunye, Malacañang is not alarmed that some senators allied with the administration are opposing the increased VAT, one of eight new taxes that Ms Arroyo had proposed to raise revenues by P80 billion a year.

"Expressing their opinion is part of our democracy. But we believe that the sum total of this, once deliberations are made, is that the majority of senators will more or less adopt the program being pushed by President Arroyo," he said in the radio interview.

It was the senators' job to study and review what the House had passed because in the case of tax measures, that chamber had the first crack, he pointed out.

"But we have faith that our senators share the objective of putting our fiscal house in order, and if there is any disagreement, this is disagreement on details, not on principle," he said.

In his statement, Bunye said the tax measures that Malacañang had been pushing were "the best and the only option to spare the country from severe economic instability, and the people from abject poverty."

"We welcome the rational debates on the issue at every level of society, but let this not be overcome by rabble-rousing and hate campaigns," he said.

No rubber stamp

Bunye denied that the House had become a rubber stamp of Malacañang by fast-tracking the approval of Palace-prescribed tax measures.

"Our legislators are independent," he declared. "This [House] is an independent body with its own direction, but we're very glad that [the congressmen] share the program and vision of our President, especially in making solutions to our fiscal problems."

"And we thank them for working overtime," he said, adding that the congressmen "worked up to 3 a.m. to pass this important legislative measure."

Congressman Javier said the Senate should complement the hard work of the House in passing the VAT bill and five other tax measures, two of which have become law.

He said the House was on track with its fiscal agenda because it had strictly followed its calendar for committee hearings and plenary debates on key administration reform and revenue proposals.

"We have seen the sense of statesmanship among senators and congressmen during the bicameral conference on the sin tax and lateral attrition bills. We are confident this sense of statesmanship will again prevail in the VAT bicameral meetings," Javier said.

No need for increase

Taking a contrary stance, Deputy Majority Leader Danton Bueser said there was no need for an increased VAT.

"I am optimistic that with the Attrition Act of 2005 and the enforcement of more rigorous, strict and uncompromising tax collection systems and approaches, the P80-billion target can be attained," he said.

Bueser also said he was very much concerned about the impact of an increased VAT on the lives of ordinary people. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

Not exactly sleeping …

From page A1

you ask left-leaning party-list congressmen how they ended up being allied with Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos in the fight against the 12-percent value-added tax.

"Ganyan-ganyan talaga buhay natin ngayon [That's life]," Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said when asked how he felt about suddenly being in the same anti-VAT bloc as the daughter of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, whose martial law regime jailed, tortured and killed, hundreds of political activists like himself.

When a number of congressmen walked out of House deliberations last week after failing to block the contentious tax measure, martial law prisoners like Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo were seen raising their fists and erupting in protest chants along with Marcos' daughter.

Ironic

This ironic alliance was captured in media footages, including a photo that made it to the INQUIRER's front page the following day.

But for Ocampo's fellow Bayan Muna representative, Teddy Casiño, being seen—and being photographed—with the daughter of the late strongman only proved that "we work with people based on issues."

"It so happened that Imee is also opposed to VAT. It's something beyond our control if people saw us together in the walkout," Casiño said.

MARCOS: That's life.

"Probably, it is to the credit of Imee's skill as a politician," he added.

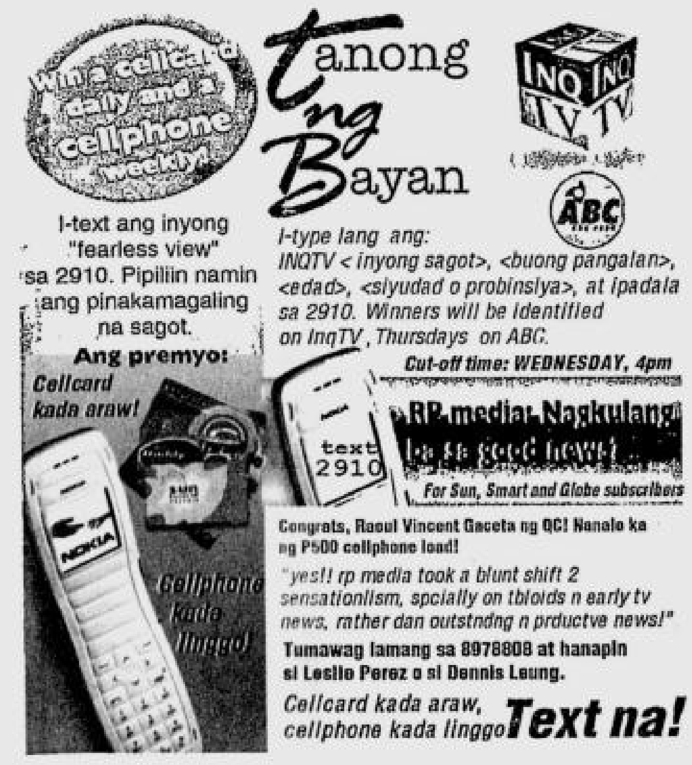
"Our position on VAT has nothing to do with how we look at her father's legacy," Casiño further said.

"That's a basis for tactical unity," Mariano said in Filipino. "Who knows? Today we're united on VAT but tomorrow, we're at odds over the compensation bill (for martial law victims.)

The two party-list representatives shared these views at yesterday's weekly Cypress Forum in Quezon City, where they also announced forthcoming protest rallies against the VAT increase.

Conceding that there was only a slim chance of the anti-VAT bloc in the House stopping the measure's transmittal to the Senate tomorrow, Casiño said, "That's why it's important for us to take to the streets, because the senators will weigh their position based on strong public opinion and the warm bodies they see out there."

Casiño said he could only hope that the police "will not misunderstand" the coming mass protests as another destabilization attempt against the Arroyo administration.



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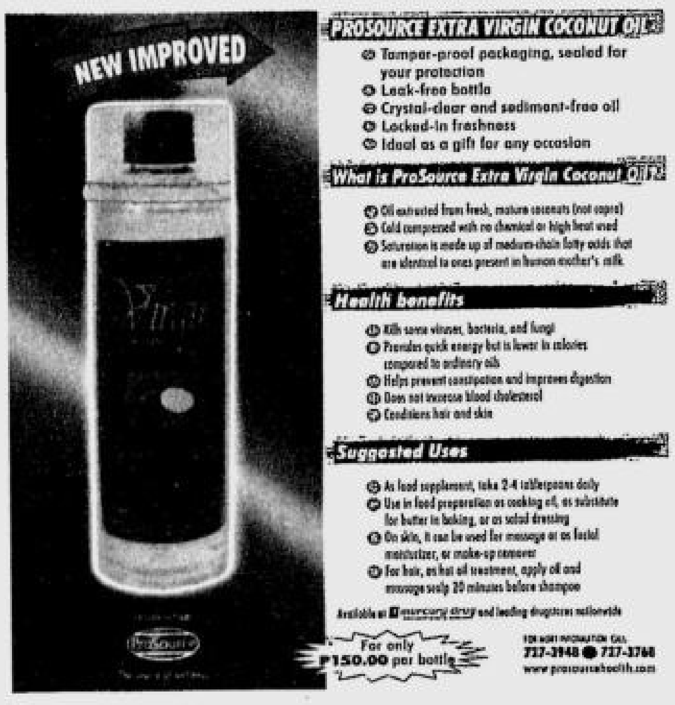

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How Metro residents cope with high power rates

By Margaux C. Ortiz, Leila B. Salaverria, Tina G. Santos and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

The Preventable

MOST households have not been spared the shock caused by the series of power rate increases.

The generation charge alone in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces rose four times between February 2004 and January this year from P3.19 to P4.78 per kilowatt-hour, an increase of 50 percent.

The increases went largely to National Power Corp. (Napocor) to cover the high cost of power due to the weakening of the peso against the dollar and the high fuel oil prices, and to help Napocor cut its losses.

Other components of the electricity bill like the transmission and system loss charges also went up.

The increases were so steep that consumers—from an urban poor resident in Manila to a businessman living in the old rich enclave of Forbes Park in Makati—have been forced to adopt energy-saving measures.

But for those hardly able to make ends meet, energy-saving measures are not enough. They are scrimping on basic necessities so they can settle their monthly electricity bills.

"We could not keep up with the power rate hikes," Gina Sison, a resident of a depressed community in Makati, said. "We are working hard to pay for our electricity instead of earning money for food."

Since her husband was arrested last year for drug peddling, Sison has been selling doughnuts to support her four little children. "I teach my children to refrain from turning the lights on even when we have visitors at home," she said.

No more vitamins

Mila Gonzales, a local government employee, complains that a big chunk of her family's budget now goes to electricity. Her bill rose from P700 to as much as P1,300 a month.

"We could not buy vitamins for ourselves anymore," Gonzales lamented.

Her family used to take the electricity bill for granted. "Now there is a conscious effort on our part to cut down on costs," she said.

The Gonzaleses now buy food from a nearby market instead of keeping provisions inside an old refrigerator for long periods. In addition, they keep their electric fan's speed to its lowest level.

The high cost of electricity has altered the lifestyles of even the wealthy.

In Forbes Park, the family of a businessman has learned the virtue of regulating the use of air-conditioners.

"The rising cost of electricity has really affected us, otherwise my wife would not complain as much," said the businessman, who pays around P50,000 a month for electricity.

"We used to leave the lights on during daytime, but we could not afford to do that anymore," he said.

Over at Green Meadows, a wealthy enclave in Quezon City, a family of a bank executive now pays P25,000 a month for electricity, up from P23,000.

"The additional P2,000 is still a big amount," said the vice president of a bank in Makati.

Although his family can very well afford to pay the electricity bills, he is still encouraging his children to conserve power.

Kids in master bedroom

They are now using fluorescent bulbs, switching off lights when nobody is around, and turning off the TV set when no one is watching.

"In fact, there are times I ask my children to sleep in the master bedroom so we can minimize the use of the other air-cons. I also advised the helpers to do certain measures that can help reduce power rates. And I'm glad because each one is cooperating," the bank executive said.

His family has all kinds of appliances, including three refrigerators, five air-con units and three personal computers—one each for his kids.

Because of the high cost of electricity, the house of Gaudencio Magallanes in Tondo, Manila, had fewer lights last Christmas.

Just one window and a Christmas tree were draped with lights, a far cry from the Christmases past when the whole house was bathed in light.

Christmas lights

Not only that. The lights were switched on for just a few hours. "We only turned on the Christmas lights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. We turn it off before we go to sleep, unlike before when it was turned on all night," said Magallanes, an arson investigator.

It was after seeing his electricity bill rise to P4,000, the biggest amount so far, that he decided to be frugal in the use of electricity.

After he disconnected one of his refrigerators and used other electric-powered gadgets less, his bills dropped by a few hundred to, at most, a thousand pesos.

"Last year was not an easy one for us financially. Our budget needs to be increased, but since I had nothing to add to it, my family and I had to learn to be frugal," he said.

In the case of Georgie Tenolete, a resident of the Baseco Compound in Manila, dealing with rising electricity bills means deciding against buying some appliances.

"I will not buy certain appliances for the meantime because they will translate to bigger electricity bills," he said.

Tenolete, an officer of a nongovernment organization, is still in the process of rebuilding his life after a big fire leveled the Baseco Compound in the Port Area in January last year.

He and his neighbors have their own meters but get their electricity from a private source. "Even a small increase in electricity rates affects us significantly because the amount in my bill is multiplied by either 12 or 14," he said.

Ironing once a week

In Payatas, Quezon City, Marivic Palupatan, a factory worker, has also caught the conservation fever upon seeing her electricity bill jump by 30 percent to between P500 and P600.

Besides switching off lights early at night and spending less time watching TV, her family seldom irons clothes.

"I strictly implement all of these and I tell my kids to use the appliances sensibly. There are other bills to pay like the house rental and water," she said.

Ironing clothes only once a week is also one of the coping mechanisms adopted by the family of Edith, a government employee.

"I also tell my maid not to iron clothes used in the house," said Edith, whose husband runs a family business. Their eldest son is already working, while her youngest son is a graduating student at the University of the Philippines.

"We are not hard up. But we have become more conscious of our electric consumption," said Edith, who receives a monthly salary of P30,000.

Illegal connections

With high power rates, many might be tempted to use jumpers to reduce their electric bills, according to a police officer.

"People would think illegal connections and jumpers are common only in urban poor communities," said Bert, a policeman in Valenzuela who gets extra income serving as an escort during field operations of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

He said the Meralco raiding team had also caught politicians and businessmen who use jumpers in their homes.

For those who can no longer afford the cost of electricity, they will have to learn how to live without the conveniences offered by appliances.

As a household in Pasay has shown, one can enjoy life without electricity—something that Meralco may find "subversive."

UCPB building catches fire

By Irene C. Perez

A 40-MINUTE fire of still unknown cause destroyed yesterday a room at the Coconut Industry Investment Fund office in the United Coconut Planters Bank Building (UCPB) on Makati Avenue.

The building was empty save for about 40 employees who were attending a seminar in another floor. They were safely evacuated.

Insp. Rachel Avilla, officer-in-charge of the Makati Fire Department (MFD), said the fire started inside the electrical room that doubled as a storage room on the 16th floor.

The room stored some Christmas decoration and shoes, firemen said.

"Electrical rooms shouldn't be utilized as stock room," Avilla said.

While no one was hurt, losses were estimated at P1 million, mostly due to water damage.

A security guard reported the incident at about 12:30 p.m., and the area was declared safe at 1:17 p.m.

Ibarra Torres, a UCPB employee, said the building was mostly made up of executive offices.

The MFD would investigate if the UCPB building had undergone fire-safety routine checks last year, said Avilla.

Outreach brings beef to poor's table

By Luige A. del Puerto

FOR MOST middle-class families in Metro Manila, eating beef may be as regular as going to church on Sunday. But for the metropolis' poor, it may come only as often as rain in the desert.

And for many others, not at all.

A school foundation run by Turkish and Filipino educators yesterday distributed some 3,000 bags of beef to poor families in San Juan. This, says the the school's director, is their way of reaching out to the less unfortunate.

"Maybe even if it is just once a year, they could eat beef," explained Kadir Bulbul, director of Fountain Academy, a pre-school and grade-school on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

The municipal government earlier identified the poor families and sent them to the school with coupons.

Each bag carries two to three kilos of beef, a kilo of which costs anywhere between P180 to P250 in the market, depending on the part.

"This will come a long way. We haven't eaten beef for a long, long time," remarked Nengneng Santos, 33, of Barangay Corazon de la Paz, the poorest district in town.

She went to the school with a neighbor and a friend.

"I have three children, the youngest of whom still needs milk. I never get to buy beef," she said, chuckling. "We simply can't afford it."

Santos recently separated with her husband, a jeepney driver. She makes a living doing odd jobs for neighbors.

"I am very thankful," she said. "This will come a long way, perhaps a week or maybe even a month."

Once a year, a Muslim, if he could afford it, is obliged to slaughter an animal—cow, lamb, sheep, goat—and give the meat to the poor. This takes place during the Edil Adha, which marks the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Muslims' holiest of places.

Last year, the same group butchered 170 cows and distributed the meat to poor residents in Zamboanga.

This year, Muslims from Australia, Germany, New Zealand and Turkey sent money to the Integrative Center for Alternative Development Foundation Inc. in the Philippines instead of slaughtering animals in their own countries.

ICAD runs Fountain Academy in San Juan and the Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School in Zamboanga City.

School officials thought of expanding the program this year to Metro Manila, and they called sister-foundations abroad to pitch in.

"They really have no need of the beef in Germany, New Zealand, Australia and Turkey, so we asked them to just send in funds to us. We will buy cows and distribute the beef to the poor here," says ICAD vice president Teyfik Aydinlioglu.

"The response was very positive," he added.

Some 400 cows were butchered in Zamboanga, where the cost is cheaper.

Some of the meat eventually found their way to San Juan.

Asked if they would do it again next year, Aydinlioglu said beaming, "Definitely. We will try to do it every year."

Marian image leaves RP with hope

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WHEN she arrived, three typhoons had just devastated several provinces. And Typhoon "Yoyong" was threatening to ruin many parts of the country.

She stayed. And she saw how millions mourned the death of a leader, how panic gripped cities because of a dreaded illness, how many desperately tried to make ends meet amid the rising prices of basic commodities.

She saw how we struggled to hang on.

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima, which has been going around the world for almost 58 years, has just ended its 58-day visit to the country.

The image arrived on Dec. 1 in Metro Manila and went around almost 60 churches on its sixth visit in the country, image custodian Carl Malburg told the INQUIRER Thursday, hours before leaving for the US.

Based on the description of Sister Lucia, one of the three children to whom Mary appeared in Portugal in 1917, the pilgrim image was sculpted in 1947 and has been going around the world carrying the message of Our Lady of Fatima.

"World situations change. But the message is unchanging," Malburg said.

He said that the message was for everyone to offer prayers, sacrifices and reparation for sins to bring about peace.

"If not, there will be more wars, persecution and famine [and] even the possibility of the annihilation of several nations," Malburg added, still referring to the message.

"When this image was blessed, the prayer of the Bishop of Portugal was that it would be accompanied by Mama Mary spiritually," Fr. Melvin Castro, Philippine coordinator of the pilgrimage, said.

Before leaving the country, the image stayed for two days at The Most Holy Redeemer Parish in Masambong, Quezon City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and about 500 devotees attended the Mass inside the small church on Thursday.

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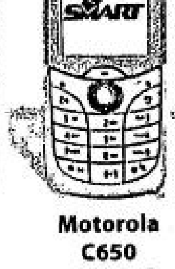

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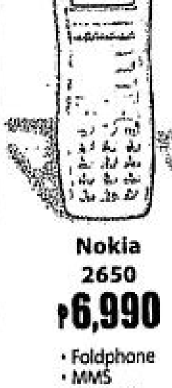

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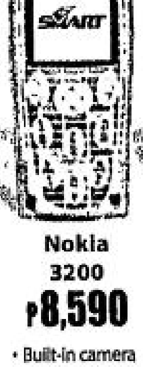

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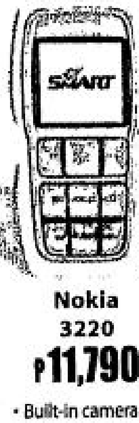

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Taulava key figure in Game One today

WHETHER he plays or not, Asi Taulava will be a major factor in today's game. PDI PHOTO

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Shell vs San Miguel Beer (battle for third)
6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text (Game 1, best-of-seven Finals)

By June Navarro

ASI TAULAVA is set to play for Talk 'N Text, the Philippine Basketball Association is determined to stop him but Barangay Ginebra couldn't care less if he sees action or not.

The TNT Phone Pals hope to exploit Taulava's return ordered early this week by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court when they collide with the Barangay Ginebra Kings today at the start of their Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

But commissioner Noli Eala said it won't lift the suspension imposed by the PBA on Taulava based on a Department of Justice ruling, and invoked the league's prerogative as a private sports organization to decide who can or cannot play in its tournament.

"Never in the history of the PBA has a third party intervened with this authority," Eala stressed.

Barangay Ginebra, however, is unaffected by all that Asi fuss.

"If Asi plays, he plays. We just have to deal with that," said Barangay Ginebra coach Siot Tanquingcen, after the Kings turned back San Miguel Beer, 76-71, late Friday to win their semifinal series, 3 games to 2, and reach the Finals.

The Phone Pals lost their first two meetings against the Kings in the tournament with Taulava already under suspension along with five other Fil-foreign players declared by the DOJ as having faked their citizenship.

Talk 'N Text assistant coach Virgil Villavicencio confirmed yesterday that Taulava has been given the go-signal by management to play based on a decision by judge Rogelio Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 222.

But Eala said the PBA will appeal the decision even as its board of directors decided not to lift Taulava's suspension.

"As a private sports organization, it is a well-established practice that the PBA makes its own rules and decisions as to who can or cannot play in the league," said Eala.

He said allowing Taulava to play "will be a dangerous precedent. The PBA's intention is to stand behind the truth and take legal steps to protect 30 years of tradition."

"Taulava's citizenship or the commissioner's knowledge of the law are of no significance in this matter compared to the greater interest of the league and the fans," he added.

Eala also criticized Taulava's lawyer, Eduardo Francisco, for trying to impose his will on the league.

"As it is, he (Francisco) is already acting like the commissioner of the league as he has already given the go-signal for Taulava to play," said Eala. "Now, how can a third party do that?"

The first time an outside agency intervened in running the affairs of the league came in 2001 when Tanduay secured a temporary restraining order (TRO) that caused the postponement of at least two full playdates.

The board later backed the commissioner's office on its stand on the citizenship issue of Sonny Alvarado and Eric Menk and then imposed some P2 million in fines to Tanduay.

The Gin Kings are seeking their first back-to-back titles, a sixth overall PBA crown and second in the post-Robert Jaworski era since 1979.

On the other hand, the Phone Pals are going for a second straight All-Filipino crown after capturing the 2003 AFC title, their first since joining the PBA in 1996.

"We want this [championship] so much. We'll just go out there and play hard. Our commitment is to give our very best despite the odds," said TNT coach Joel Banal.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

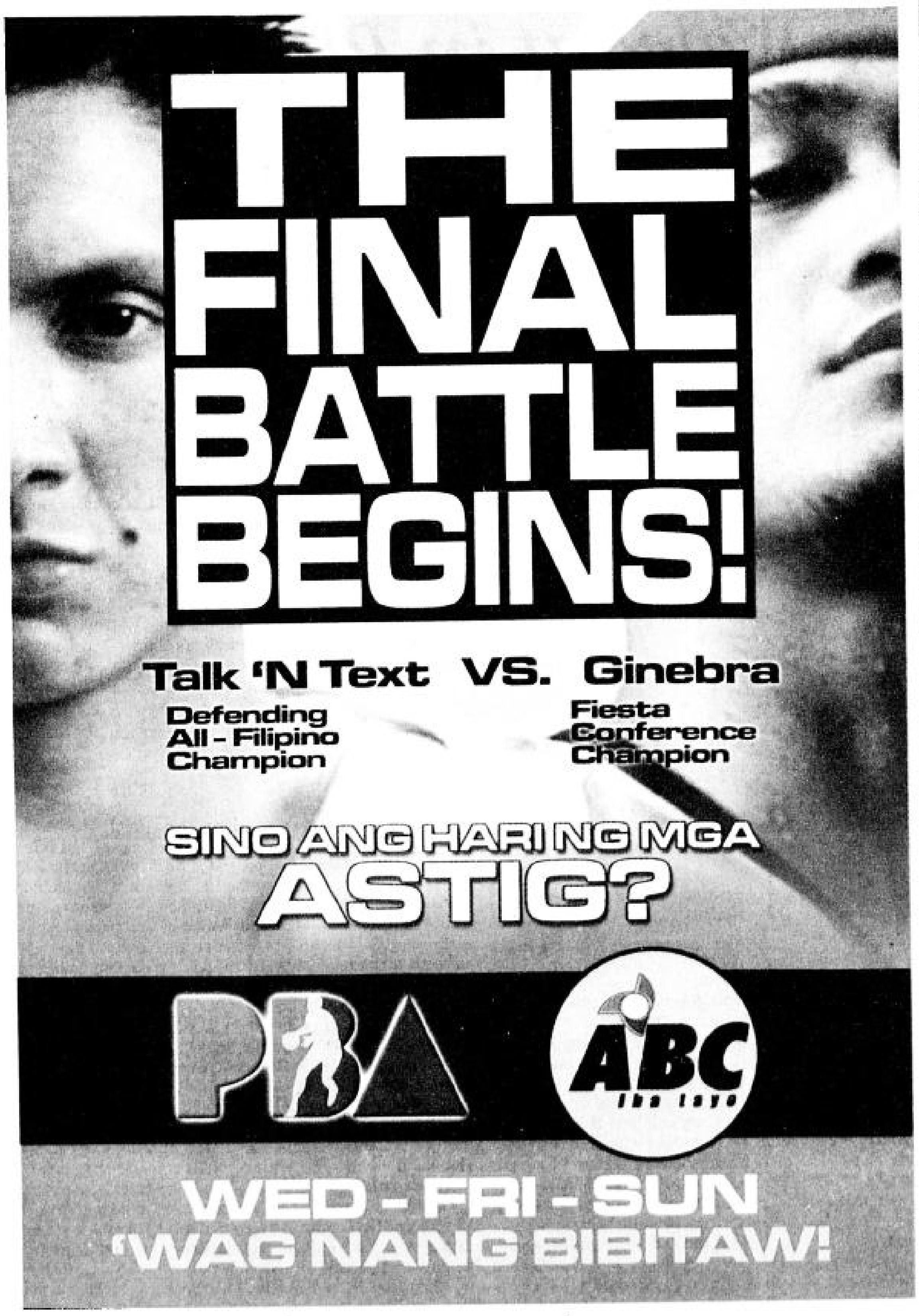
TENNIS: 2005 Australian Open Mixed Double Finals; 1 p.m.; Men's Singles Finals; 4 p.m.; STAR Sports—Find out who leaves Melbourne with the crown.

GOLF: Asian Tour-Caltex Masters; 8 a.m. (d) and 11 p.m. (d); ESPN—See the final two days of the first Asian Tour event tee off on a delayed basis.

BASKETBALL: NBA-Magic vs Wizards; 8 a.m. (r-5:30 p.m.); Warriors vs Clippers; 12 noon; Solar Sports—Orlando hopes to cast a spell on Washington while Golden State and LA clash in California.

US NCAA-Duke vs Florida State; 2 p.m. (r); Maryland vs Duke; 4 p.m. (r); ESPN—Take another look at two games featuring the Blue Devils against the Seminoles and the Terrapins, respectively.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.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Fiesta Conference Champion
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ABC iba tayo
WED - FRI - SUN
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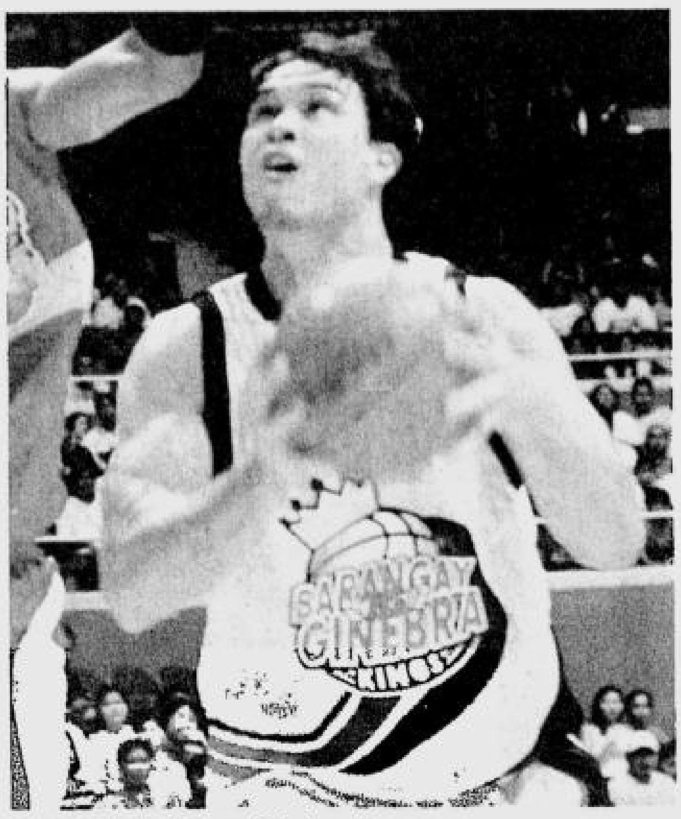
Kings out to prove they're tops



MENK: It doesn't matter if Taulava plays. PDI PHOTO

EVEN if Asi Taulava suits up for Talk 'N Text, Barangay Ginebra still looks forward to giving coach Siot Tanquingcen a victory ride and hoisting the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup championship trophy.

They're not soothsayers but the Kings are brimming with confidence following their semifinal victory over the San Miguel Beermen late Friday night to reach the best-of-seven finals against the Phone Pals starting today.

"It doesn't matter if he (Taulava) plays or not," said Eric Menk after powering the Kings past the Beermen, 76-71, in Game 5 of their best-of-five semifinal duel.

"We're going out there and we expect to win. We think we're the best team in the league. We have proven it in the eliminations and the semifinals and we will prove it again," added Menk.

Backed by a boisterous crowd every game, Tanquingcen and the Kings are now installed as the favorites in the title series, more so with Talk 'N Text yet to win over Barangay Ginebra this conference.

On both occasions, however, Taulava was in cold storage serving a suspension imposed by the league based on a Department of Justice ruling that the 2003 PBA MVP had faked his citizenship documents.

"If Asi plays, he plays. We just have to deal with it," said Tanquingcen. "We're not saying he's not going to be an advantage but we have Eric [Menk], Andy [Seigle] and Rommel [Adducul] to stop him anyway."

Mark Caguioa has also predicted victory for the Kings, saying the worst is over after their win over the Beermen.

"To tell you the truth, I find San Miguel Beer much more difficult to deal with. They (Beermen) are more experienced and disciplined," said Caguioa. "I'm not saying *na madadalian kami* (we'll have an easy time) with Talk 'N Text but San Miguel is more difficult to handle."

Caguioa believes manpower edge and momentum are on their side.

"You'll never know what will happen in the Finals but for sure, we're going to win," said Caguioa.

The Phone Pals are aiming to duplicate their 2003 All-Filipino Cup title while the Kings are going for a second straight crown. *June Navarro*

CAGUIOA: For sure, we're going to win. PDI PHOTO

Ramos new FedEx Express coach

THE RUMORS are true.

Air21 president and FedEx Express team manager Lito Alvarez yesterday confirmed the buzz in basketball circles that Gerardo "Bong" Ramos, a former coach of the Indonesian national basketball team, will handle the head coaching reins of the Bert Lina-owned franchise.

"Ramos will be coaching the FedEx Express in the coming season," Alvarez announced after approving Ramos' three-year pact, the details of which were not released. "We are very excited and very optimistic that our young Express team will finally be over the hump soon."

Alvarez added that Ramos was himself formerly associated with Air21 as the veteran mentor was a former deputy of head coach Bonnie Garcia with the Laguna Lakers team of Lina in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA).

"We know him (Ramos) personally and his work ethics and this made the talks very easy and smooth-sailing," said Alvarez, who also revealed that Lina, despite his appointment as Bureau of Customs Commissioner, is still very much a "hands-on" owner of the team.

"*Hindi na mawawala ang* sports *sa puso ni* Mr. Lina," said Alvarez. "As a matter of fact, he had a heart-to-heart talk with our new coach and expressed his wishes.

"Judging from his (Lina's) smile at the end of their talk, I think he liked what he heard from our new coach."

Helping Ramos at the FedEx Express bench are Bo Perasol and Robert Sison who, only recently, steered the Montaña Jewels to the Philippine Basketball League Open Conference finals.

"This is a new challenge and I welcome it wholeheartedly," said Ramos, whose contract with Aspac ended last October. "The Express team is a young, hungry team with unlimited potential. It's just a matter of whipping the team into one fighting unit. I have grand visions for the team, but we will take it one conference at a time.

"We'll set small goals, until we reach the zenith of our vision, which is a PBA championship for the team."

Ramos brings with him a wealth of credentials over at FedEx. A former Mapua Cardinal in the NCAA, Ramos earned an assistant coaching job with the Barangay Ginebra Kings as Allan Caidic's deputy in 2001.

But greener pastures beckoned. He was given an offer he can't refuse to coach the Aspac Texmaco team in the Indonesian Basketball League (formerly Kobatama) and it was on foreign soil that Ramos would shine best as a bench tactician.

He steered Aspac Texmaco to a grand slam in 2002 and to a fourth straight title in 2003, a feat that earned for him Indonesia's Coach of the Year title. His achievements with Aspac also paved the way for his appointment as head coach of the Indonesian national team to the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam, where his wards almost pulled the rug from under the Philippine quintet.

Before that, Ramos was also assistant coach of the Philippine Team that retained its title in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games.

PBA warned on keeping Asi 'frozen'

By Philip C. Tubeza

YOU'RE treading on dangerous grounds.

Eduardo E. Francisco, counsel of Talk N' Text center Paul Asi Taulava, yesterday warned the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) of doing a "patently illegal act" by barring his client from playing in the PBA Philippine Cup Finals starting today.

He also chided Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez for urging the PBA not to follow a Quezon City court order directing the league to lift its suspension of Taulava and allowing him to play.

Preventing Taulava from playing would be in direct defiance of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court's order on Jan. 26, which Francisco said was "effective immediately."

"The PBA can come up with excuses to bar Taulava from playing, but those justifications would not change the fact that the PBA will be defying a direct order from a court of law," Francisco said.

Francisco reiterated his warning that he would initiate contempt proceedings against anyone who would stop Taulava from playing.

He said he wrote the PBA Board on Friday to stress that the court's writ of preliminary injunction order was immediately effective, contrary to the "misguided legal opinion" of PBA commissioner Noli Eala.

Francisco said Eala was wrong in claiming that the motion for reconsideration filed by the PBA before the Quezon City court held in abeyance the execution of the writ.

The lawyer said the court order reinstating Taulava "effective immediately" in the PBA All-Filipino even retroacts to the date of Taulava's suspension on Oct. 19, 2004.

"The court order was status-quo ante, meaning that Asi is to be considered by the PBA as if he has not served any suspension. His eligibility which was suspended by the PBA has been restored by this order of the Quezon City court," Francisco said.

Compton sees Montaña win over Welcoat in PBL Finals

COMPTON (right): There's no pressure. RUDY ESPERAS

By Musong R. Castillo

ALEX Compton has had success everywhere he went.

From a flamboyant young guard in the defunct MBA in the last decade to being a television commercial model and special events host, Compton has left his mark.

It took quite a while in coming, but the 30-year-old is in his first title appearance in the Philippine Basketball League.

And he's taken Montaña and the rest of the Jewels with him.

The Jewels start their best-of-five series for the Open championship with Welcoat on Tuesday and Compton tried so hard to downplay the fact that he was the vital ingredient why they are here and will continue to be if they are to win.

"In our 10 wins in the elims, we had seven different best players," Compton said during the league's media day Friday. "It took total team effort for us to get to where we are and it won't be different when we play the series.

"There are a lot of valuable players in our team," Compton said.

"I will treat this just like any other [finals I played in]," added Compton, who won titles with Manila and Batangas in the MBA. "There's no pressure, if that's what you mean."

Montaña comes into the title series a greenhorn colliding with a team that established a "Welcoated" dynasty a few years back.

The Paint Masters will be seeing action in their 10th PBL title series and their third straight in the last two seasons.

Their last two trips have been fruitless, making Welcoat a hungry team like Montaña.

All the games in the series will be played at the league's home—the Makati Coliseum—and aside from Compton, Al Vergara and Jondan Salvador will play vital roles if Montaña is to extend Welcoat's miseries.

Former professionals Marvin Ortiguerra and Chester Tolomia will lead the Paint Masters together with promising Fil-Am Anthony Washington.

Both teams took different routes in making the championship series, with Montaña sweeping past Granny Goose and Welcoat coming back from a Game 1 loss to claim the scalp of Magnolia Ice Cream.

"It's all about heart and I am proud of what we have achieved," said Welcoat coach Caloy Garcia. "I think this series is pretty even,"

Compton appeared to be the one most at ease during the media day and knew how to answer a ticklish question everyone asks going into a title series: "Montaña will win, I just don't know in how many games."

The music of sound

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT WAS Dada who said it first: "The music of sound."

Dada, Mayo's lovable sister and the "Ate" of Migel, always referred to "The Sound of Music" as "The Music of Sound." She loves the film so much she can watch it all day over and over again without showing any sign of exhaustion.

Is the line "the music of sound" wrong?

Not to me.

Any sound can be music. And any music can be sound.

And since we are at it again, here's more about "The Golden Legends" of Steve O'Neal, a.k.a. Danee Samonte of dzRJ 100.3, who will bring in the Peter and Gordon sound next month. Gordon will perform with Dennis Yost ("Spooky") and Chris Montez ("Call Me") at the Aliw Theater on Feb. 12 and Hard Rock Café on Feb. 13-14.

Gordon is a born balladeer and he'll make you swoon with "Woman," "True Love Ways," "I Go To Pieces," "To Know You Is To Love You," "Soft as the Dawn," "500 Miles," "Till There Was You" and "Let It Be Me."

Dennis Yost is the voice of the Classics IV whose hits include "Stormy," "Sunny" and "Traces." Chris Montez immortalized songs like "The Girl from Ipanema" and "The More I See You."

Area One, featuring John Lesaca and Ramon Jacinto, will open the Aliw show. Area One will also perform at the Hard Rock Café. For ticket details, call 891-9999.

Here's a bit on Gordon, the other half of the Peter and Gordon duo.

Gordon Trueman Riviere Waller was born in Scotland and grew up in England. A doctor's son, Gordon, now 59, attended the prestigious Westminster Boys School where he met Peter Asher.

Originally known as Gordon and Peter, the twosome later switched names because "it sounded better."

In 1964, the two were discovered by record producer Norman Newall while playing a two-week gig at the Pickwick Club in London.

It wasn't an easy ride to the top for Peter and Gordon. The pair sent 63 demo tapes before signing a contract with Columbia. What boosted their career was Beatle Paul McCartney writing songs for them. McCartney, who was then courting Peter's sister, Jane, wrote "A World Without Love" for the tandem. Within two weeks after its release in record bars, the song zoomed to No. 1 in the UK charts and eventually sold over a million copies around the world. It also became No. 1 in the US and nine other countries. Amazingly, the song dislodged The Beatles from the No. 1 spot in the English charts after a nine-week residence.

Another McCartney composition, "Nobody I Know," was a million seller for Peter and Gordon although it peaked at No. 10 in the UK and No. 12 in the US. McCartney also wrote "I Don't Want To See You Again" (US No. 16) and "Woman" (UK No. 28, US No. 14), under the pseudonym Bernard Webb, for the pair.

McCartney wasn't the only songwriter who produced hits for the duo.

Del Shannon contributed "I Go To Pieces" (US No. 9) when The Searchers turned it down in 1965. "True Love Ways" (UK No. 2) was a Buddy Holly original.

In 1964, Peter and Gordon embarked on their first US tour that started at the World's Fair in New York and ended in Honolulu.

The duo split up in 1968.

Gordon worked as a disc jockey on BBC2 TV's "The Fantastist," recorded solo singles and a solo album. He did landscaping and gardening and appeared as the Pharaoh, dressed like his idol, Elvis Presley, in the Tim Rice musical, "Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." His role as the Pharaoh began in 1971 at the Edinburgh Festival and took him to London and finally Australia, where he got married in 1975.

Gordon also worked as a salesman for Rank Xerox and invested in a company making radio commercials in Northamptonshire. He formed a music publishing company called Steele Wallet International Ltd. and wrote the soundtrack for the film "James Dean—Race with Destiny." He now lives in California.

Steve O'Neal's coming caper at the Hard Rock Café includes dinner and wine. Seats are limited, however, so I'm going to call and reserve now (8934661 to 64). And yes, Steve, do you really want me to sub for Peter to do "A World Without Love" with Gordon? If I agree, I know Gordon and I may yet make "the music of sound" of the '60s.

But really now, are you serious?

It will cost you.

Asian Moto starts Feb.4

GLENN Aguilar and the rest of the RP Motocross crew start their quest to regain Asian Motocross supremacy as the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship series kicks off Feb. 4-6 in Guam, USA.

Aguilar, the 2003 FIM Asian Motocross champion, was on the verge of a back-to-back crown as last year's title chase went down the wire against Japanese Tadakazu Ohtsuka in Macau.

He took the holeshot at the start of the race but suffered a spill on the lap, paving the way for Ohtsuka to run away with the 2004 Asian Motocross title.

Joining Aguilar in the premiere 125cc event is Caltex Revtex teammate Kenneth San Andres who debuted in the centerpiece class in Macau last year, finishing 14th among 23 riders.

PAL Dickies' Rafael Enriquez and Nueva Ecija's Jean Erick Mitra will be the country's bets in the Peewee class of the Asian series. After returning from Macau last year, the pair have gone into rigorous training in their bid to wrest the crown from 2004 Asian Peewee champion Troy Corpuz of Guam.

Enriquez and Mitra ended up as runners-up to the Guam rider in 2004.

These top local riders secured berths to the Guám-bound RP Motocross Team in NAMSSA's qualifying event -- the 2nd leg of the Philippine National Motocross Series held at the Clark Eagles Raceway last week.

Aguilar, San Andres, Enriquez and Mitra topped their respective classes to bolster the Philippine contingent's hopes in Guam.

REYES: Still going strong at 50 ANGIE DE SILVA

Bata, Django top favorites in 9-ball tilt

THE QUALIFYING round of the P1-million Philippine Open 9-ball championship has been moved to Feb. 13-15 at the IBC 13 complex in Quezon City, tournament director Rolly Vicente announced yesterday.

Only eight slots are up for grabs in the two-day eliminations, which is open to all players with professional licenses from the Games and Amusements Board.

All matches will be race-to-7 with the winners joining the likes of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Django Bustamante to the tournament proper.

"We encourage all billiards fanatics to join," said Vicente in Filipino. "Part of the thrust of this tournament is to discover new talents for the country."

The tournament, dubbed "Best of the Best All-Pinoy 9-Ball Tour," will be held Feb. 21-27 also at the IBC 13 complex.

The 50-year-old Reyes arrived the other day, fresh from winning the One Pocket and 9-Ball divisions of the Annual Derby Classic in Louisville, Kentucky.

He still sets out as the favorite, together with Bustamante and reigning world champ Alex Pagulayán.

Aside from Reyes, the leading money winner last year with earnings of more than US$124,150, Bustamante and Pagulayan, the other seeded players in the event proper are Lee Vann Corteza, Warren Kiamco, Marlon Manalo, Rodolfo Luat and Leonardo Andam.

BUSTAMANTE

This year's champion receives P500,000 in prize money with P200,000 going to the second placer. Third and fourth spots will be worth P50,000 each.

Filipino legend and now US-based Jose "Amang" Parica won this event the last time it was held in 1992 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila. Parica nipped Eduardo "Pikoy" Villanueva, 15-14, for the P200,000 champion's purse. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Coach Oreta out, Aglipay confirms

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S good for Philippine badminton.

Thus said Philippine Badminton Association executive vice president and National Police Chief Gen. Edgardo Aglipay yesterday in reaction to the resignation of national coach Valentin "Butch" Oreta.

Aglipay added the development won't affect the country's preparation for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games where the country is expected to improve its lone bronze-medal finish two years ago in Vietnam.

"The Philippine Badminton Association and coach Oreta should move on for the betterment of the sport," said Aglipay in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Aglipay, who is also a Philippine Olympic Committee director, refused to reveal Oreta's replacement although sources said national grassroots chief Errol Chan may take his place.

Oreta broke his silence last Friday over his resignation, which he filed Nov. 15 yet. He said PBA president and former First Lady Ming Ramos has not accepted it.

However, Aglipay's remarks confirmed Oreta's ouster although the PBA EVP refused to elaborate.

Oreta had complained that he can't implement his training program because he has not been given a free hand by the PBA board in choosing his coaching staff.

AGLIPAY

"Where can you find a national coach who doesn't have an assistant coach?" Oreta told the INQUIRER. "They want to put people in the coaching staff, unfortunately these people don't want to follow me."

The Philippines is hoping to make a decent performance in the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games considering the growing popularity of the sport.

The country won a bronze in the 2003 SEAG in Vietnam through the mixed doubles pair of siblings Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion.

Konica Minolta Pro-Am golfest dangles Hi-Lux for hole-in-one

THE ALL-NEW Toyota Hi-Lux will be the hole-in-one prize in the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am on Feb. 8-12 at Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite.

Toyota's newest model that is fast capturing the imagination of the country's car buffs will be up for grabs at No. 4 of Langer, the same course where Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco prevailed in the tournament that was then called the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am.

BRAVO

"This has been our commitment to the tournament since its inception in 2001," said Daniel M. Isla, first vice president (marketing division) of Toyota Motor Philippines. "Toyota will always be a staunch supporter of sports, especially to an event as prestigious as the Konica Minolta Pro-Am."

Ariel de Jesus, Isla's chief lieutenant, has instructed his staff to finalize plans for the display at Riviera's grounds of the pickup-of-the-future Hi-Lux, which will be staked both in the Celebrity Tournament on Feb. 8 and the regular event on Feb. 9-12.

"I am deeply touched by Toyota's unflinching support to our tournament," said U-Bix top honcho Bert Bravo, who revived the unique Pro-Am in partnership with Commodore Danny Pizarro, the president of Riviera Golf Club. "More power to Toyota."

The total pot for the one-ball, twosome event has been upped to a whopping P1.5 million, thanks to Shoei Yamana, the executive director of Konica Minolta Business Technologies Corporation of Japan.

"We are honored to co-sponsor this year's Pro-Am with U-Bix Corporation, the exclusive distributor of Konica copiers in the Philippines for 30 years now," said Yamana. "U-Bix has been our loyal ally and beginning this April, U-Bix will be our exclusive distributor for Konica Minolta in the Philippines."

Among those raring to challenge Cantada and JR Tanpinco for the crown are Roger Retuerto-Erwin Vinluan, Willy de Tomas-Iggy Clavecilla and Angelo Que-Shean Bedi in the NGAP-sanctioned event supported by Riso, Epson, Brother Office, Casio, Okamura, Planex Network, ServiceMaster, Terminix, Merry Maids, Grappa's Ristorante, Caffe Appassionato, Pivo Praha, WineMaster, Pagcor, DHL-WWW Express, PSC, Bravo Golf and Rowell Group.

Only 110 teams will be accepted in the tournament, which stakes the Bravo Cup and will have Taby Tabaniag, Jake Ayson and Al Mendoza as rules officials. Registration centers are at the NGAP offices (tels. 525-6987, 524-5160) and Riviera (888-9127, 046-2868, 046-414-2837).

Torre, Paragua clash looms

THE 1ST Tanauan Chess Open-Mayor's Cup, the richest ever active chess event in local soil with a cash pot of P200,000, fires off March 4-5 at the Speaker Jose B. Laurel Memorial Gymnasium in Tanauan City, Batangas.

Asia's first Grandmaster Eugene Torre and SEA Games triple-gold medalist Mark Paragua have signed in for the tournament.

The champion gets the lion share of P100,000 plus trophy. The second placer will receive P40,000; third, P20,000; fourth, P10,000; fifth, P5,000; 6th-10th, P2,000 each; and 11th-20th, P1,000 each.

The event is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia with support from the First Asia Institute and the city government of Tanauan. Registration is being accepted at the First Asia Institute, #2 President Laurel Highway, Tanauan City, Batangas with tels. (043) 778-0656 and 778-1529 loc 106 (ask for Daniel Darusin) or at the ACCA (ask for Susan Manalo), 6th Floor PDCP Bank Centre, Leviste corner Rufino Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City or contact 0918-6966581; e-mail: acca@info.com.ph

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest to bid for the engagement of the services of a Consultant to assist the Treasury Department (TD) of the Bank in the search, evaluation, selection and implementation of an integrated Treasury Management System (TMS).

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) – P11.0M		Target Completion Date
Phase I	- Assessment of TD's current operations and preparation of the Requirements Definition Reports	4 months from date of acceptance of award by the selected consultant
Phase IIA	- Publication and procurement of TD's software package	6 months from completion and acceptance of Phase I deliverables
Phase IIB	Installation and the full implementation of the acquired TD's software package	Full implementation of the software package which should be within 12 months from date of acceptance of award

Interested Consultants must submit the following documents to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) thru the BAC Secretariat, Room 212, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than 17 February 2005, 4:30 p.m., Philippine Time

1. Articles of Partnership/Incorporation and/or Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return, duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its Authorized Agent Bank or a Y2003 Certified True Copy of the Income Tax Return issued by the Revenue District Officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue concerned (for electronic filing)
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of ongoing project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate valid for at least one (1) month reckoned from 17 February 2005. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current Asset less Current Liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects, K = 15
7. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder/consultant is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents/information submitted for eligibility check
9. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder/consultant or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder/consultant that he or she or any officer of the corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
11. Company Profile
12. Track record (copies of contracts for similar projects and certificate/s of achievements, if any). Must be knowledgeable and experienced in banking and financial systems
13. Reference sites where consultancy and/or project management services had been rendered and are willing to provide detailed information concerning reference project. For each reference site, the following details should be provided:
    a. Name of the organization and contact person
    b. Current telephone number, fax number and email address of contact person
    c. Nature of consultancy service(s) rendered

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,500.00. Preliminary conferences will be conducted later for pre-selected bidders.

Pre-selected bidders should submit an initial but complete technical proposal to the BAC thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) and should be prepared to make a presentation of their proposals, if required. The TWG's review of the submitted technical proposals may lead to a revised RFP.

The BAC shall issue Invitation(s) to Bid (ITB) to pre-selected bidders. In response to the ITB, the bidders should submit a final technical proposal based on the revised RFP and a financial bid. The winner shall be selected on the basis of a quality-based evaluation procedure.

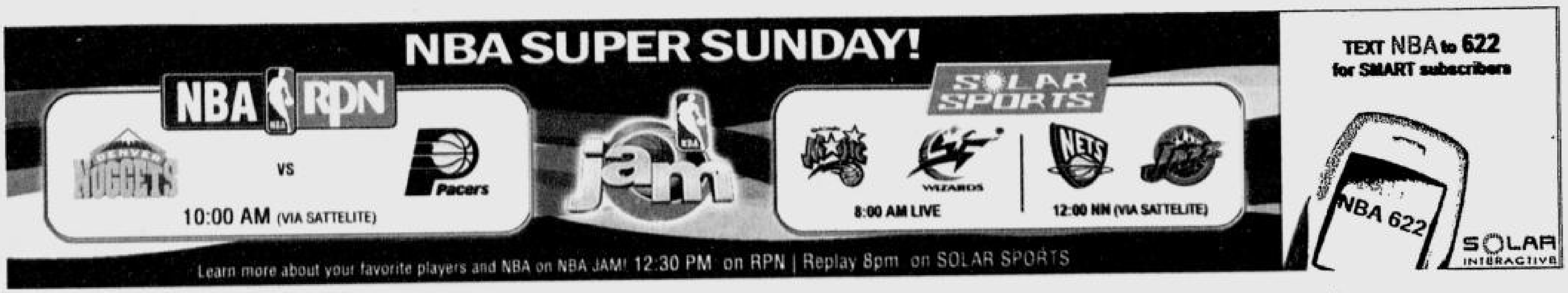
The pre-selected bidders must be ready to comply with the following:

1. Must inhibit themselves and their affiliates from participating in the bidding for the supply of the TMS software product.
2. Must use their best efforts to preserve the confidentiality of any business proprietary or confidential information submitted by BSP
3. Must ensure that sufficient number of qualified personnel will be assigned fulltime in the project until its full implementation.

The BSP assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate and indemnify the bidders for expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of their proposals.

(Sgd.) MA. DOLORES B. YUVIENCO
Chairperson

(PDI - Jan. 30, 2005)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Serena back in her terri

Overcomes injury, hammers three-set victory over D

MELBOURNE, Australia—Serena Williams had lost the first four games and was in pain, wincing on almost every swing. Her shots lacked their usual zing. Her hopes for a seventh Grand Slam appeared to be doomed.

Then, with a little help from the trainer, the woman who calls herself the toughest fighter in tennis started getting her power back. It was soon lights out for top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, as Williams rallied for a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 victory in the Australian Open final on Saturday that stretched her winning streak here to 14 matches.

In Sunday's men's final—the first-ever here at night—third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt will face No. 4 Marat Safin, who is in his third final in four years at Melbourne Park but has yet to win one. The Russian ended Roger Federer's 26-match winning streak in the semifinals, while Hewitt beat second-ranked Andy Roddick.

Bookies' favorite

Seeded only seventh, Williams was still the bookies' favorite against Davenport, who had struggled at times and was tired after reaching the women's doubles final, too.

The match was little over a minute old and Davenport had Williams running from side to side.

"I reached for a backhand and I think it tweaked my back out, one of my ribs out," said Williams, who will jump to No. 2 when the new rankings come out.

"For a split-second," she thought she might have been hit by another in the string of injuries that sent her tumbling out of the sport.

'Not again'

"I said: 'This is not happening again,'" Williams recalled.

Refusing to give up—she fended off three match points in her semifinal win over Maria Sharapova on Thursday—she tried to play through the pain.

"I never, ever think that I have to give up, in the most dire situations," Williams said. Still, "For the next few games I was completely out of it. I had to adjust."

She realized that she couldn't do it on her own.

"I finally decided, 'OK, why don't you call for the trainer and see if she can put it back in place?' She did, and everything worked out," Williams said.

Well, it wasn't quite that simple.

Turning point

Although Williams started to loosen up, Davenport went on to win the first set. The turning point came as Williams served at 2-2 in the second. Appearing twice to be on the verge of smashing her racket, she fended off six break points to hold.

"I was serving so many balls my arm was hurting," Williams recalled. "I kept thinking 'I'm not losing this game—I don't care if my arm falls off.'"

A tiebreaker loomed as Davenport served at 3-4, 40-0. Two double-faults and a couple of other errors later, and it was 5-3. Davenport never had another chance, losing the last nine games and winning only eight points in the third set.

Horrible lapse

"I felt like I was playing well and in control pretty much of the match," Davenport said. "Then I just had that horrible lapse... and opened up the door for her. She just kept going through it.

"At the end I think I was a little bit fatigued. But she took advantage of it and kept going—she's a great front-runner when she gets going."

Williams ended her 18-month Grand Slam drought—then started talking about landing her eighth major and regaining the No. 1 spot that now is so close again.

The French Open is next, and she pointed out that a victory there would provide a little symmetry—two titles in each of the four majors.

Williams won her first Australian Open when she beat sister Venus in the final here two years ago—when the Williams sisters were at the top of women's tennis—but couldn't defend the title last year because of a knee injury.

Sister's death

Coming to grips with a series of injuries and the shooting death of her sister, Yetunde Price, in September 2003, had been hard enough, Williams said, without having to face persistent questions about "What's wrong with the Williams sisters?"

"There's nothing wrong with us," she said Saturday. "We're still players to beat."

Williams said regaining the Australian title was the start of a resurgence: "This gives me confidence."

After Davenport's backhand landed long on match point, Williams dropped to one knee and raised both arms in the air.

She held up her index finger, showing she's No. 1, before walking over to her entourage in the crowd and slapping hands with her mother, Oracene, and Australian hitting partner Mark Hlawaty.

Steady morning rain forced the roof at Rod Laver Arena to be closed for the 10th all-American women's final in the Australian Open.

Men's doubles

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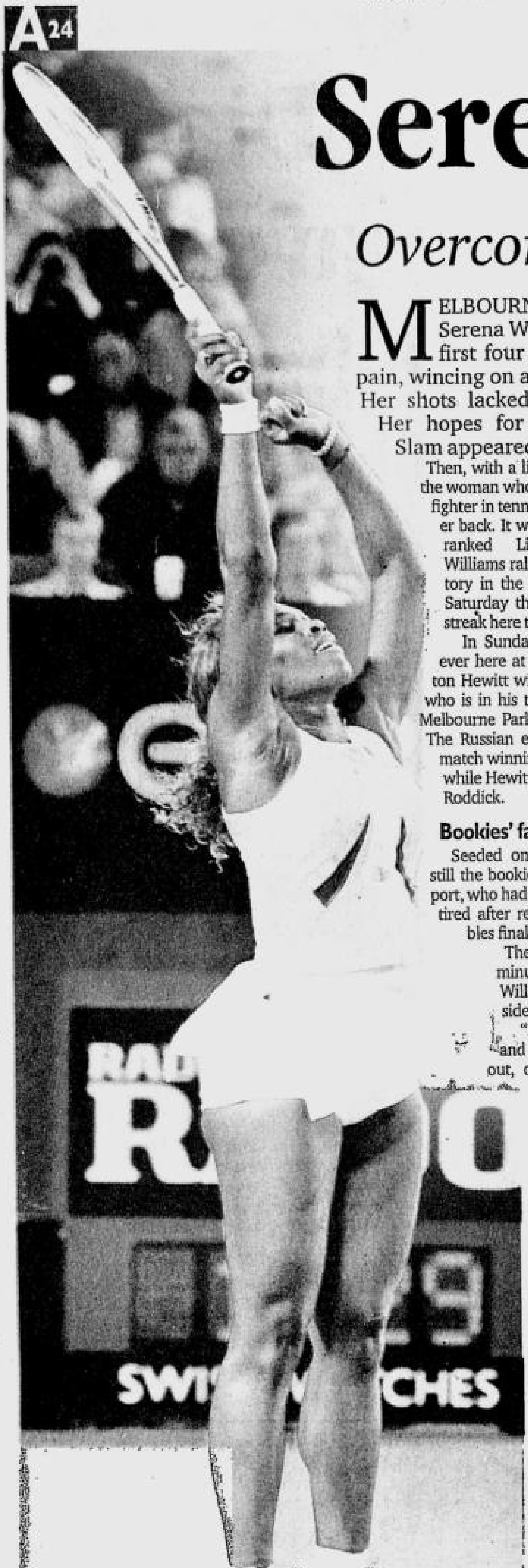

SERENA Williams leaps and holds her racket high after scoring the final point that gave her the Australian Open women's title. REUTERS

New men's tennis era has arrived

ARLINGTON, Washington—Not since the 1970s when rivalries among Jimmy Connors, Bjorn Borg, Ilie Nastase and Guillermo Vilas drew millions of fans has tennis been in a better position to grow.

There's a broader balance of power in the men's game with charismatic stars from all corners of the globe—Roger Federer from Switzerland, Marat Safin from Russia, the Australian Lleyton Hewitt and the American Andy Roddick.

Close in age—Safin is the oldest having just turned 25—they could be firing shots at each other for the next eight years, while still younger players look for their places in the pecking order.

Andre Agassi, meanwhile, is still around and still dangerous enough to beat any of them.

"This is, to me, the real start of the new era in men's tennis," said Patrick McEnroe, the US Davis Cup captain. "You've got these four great players, all of whom have won a Grand Slam. They are all young personalities and enjoyable to watch in different ways."

That has translated into packed crowds at events almost everywhere. Worldwide ATP attendance, not including Grand Slams, rose to 4 million in 2004, up from 3.8 million the year before, and 3.6 million in 2002.

The women's game, boosted in recent years by the rise of Venus and Serena Williams as champions and Anna Kournikova as cover girl, has blossomed into a deep mix of players with talent and personality.

The three Russian women who won Grand Slams last year brought a new dimension to the game. Maria Sharapova, the 17-year-old Wimbledon champion, showed she's far more than just a pretty face.

Serena Williams, who overcame an early back injury to beat Lindsay Davenport in the final, had to survive three match points to edge Sharapova in a semifinal that was every bit as thrilling as the Federer-Safin match.

At a time when other pro US sports have been beset by problems with steroids, the arrests of stars, and confrontations with fans, tennis stands to gain as a civil alternative—like golf, but with far more sweat and athleticism.

"Let's face it, we don't have the same problems that baseball, football, basketball have with people breaking the law," said Kurt Kamperman, the US Tennis Association's chief executive for community tennis. *AP*

Safin's destiny and He dream: Something has t

MELBOURNE, Australia—Marat Safin claims he's not superstitious, but he does believe in destiny. Lleyton Hewitt is living out his dream, backed by a lot of hard work.

One will have to give on Sunday, when fourth-seeded Safin faces No. 3 Hewitt in the first Australian Open singles final to be played at night.

It's a matchup of two of tennis' most emotional personalities. Safin is known for his racket-breaking eruptions of internal frustrations.

Hewitt fires himself up with fist pumps and shouts of "Come on!" that electrify the fans who see him as the embodiment of the "Aussie battler," refusing to yield despite seemingly overwhelming odds.

Safin says everything he's been through—a US Open title and No. 1 ranking in 2000 at age 20, then injuries that dropped him to 86th—combined to bring him to where he is now, on the brink of his second Grand Slam championship.

He was runnerup here two of the last three years, losing in 2004 to Roger Federer as he showed he was again one of the game's elite.

Safin then beat top-ranked Federer in their semifinal Thursday, ending his 26-match winning streak.

'Too stupid'

"I believe in destiny," Safin said Saturday. "I think everything that happened before to me, it had to happen. I really believe in that. I couldn't change it if it was meant to be this way. So it will be just a little bit too stupid to waste opportunity, a third one especially."

The 25-year-old Hewitt started coming to Melbourne Park when he was 7 or 8, watching Ivan Lendl, Tony Roche, Pat Cash and Mats Wilander. He pretended he was in the main draw.

"I probably won it a few thousand times," Hewitt said. "Probably a lot of ways."

At a month short of 16, he became the youngest-ever qualifier at the Australian Open, but had never made it past the fourth round in eight previous trips.

Warmup

This time, Hewitt said, his preparations began several months ago, with the goal of peaking at just the right time. He looked at the Masters Cup in November as a warmup, a chance to size up the other top players. Some of them took a break for much of December. Hewitt only had a few days off.

"I'm taking a month off after this next match," he said. "That's why I decided to do all my hard work leading into the Australian summer, and basically through December and through the hot period and get used to the conditions and everything, and get my body in as good a shape as possible. I was going to give myself the best possible chance, knowing that I was going to have a rest straight afterwards."

SAFIN: "I believe in destiny."

HEWITT: Part

Head-to-head

There's not a lot to separate the two men, despite their very different styles. They're 5-5 in head-to-head meetings.

Safin is about power, in his serve and from the baseline, with a little finesse tossed in. He knows he can't wait for the game to come to him.

"He tries to make you play the same game he wants you to play," he said of Hewitt. "And it just doesn't suit me. I have to go with my tactics, just go for it sometimes, risk it, and be aggressive—be really aggressive."

Hewitt is the classic counter-puncher, zipping from sideline to sideline to retrieve shots that would be winners against most players, then waiting for a mistake or a weak shot to attack.

Huge fighter

"He's a huge fighter," Safin said. "He has unbelievable anticipation. He has unbelievable fitness. He knows the game very well. He reads really good the players. Psychologically, he's very stable. So he has more talents than many other players."

The crowd will be overwhelmingly for Hewit
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After win, Williams 'might go shopping'

MELBOURNE, Australia—It was her first Grand Slam singles win since Wimbledon 2003, and Serena Williams wasn't quite sure how to mark the occasion.

"I don't ever celebrate," Williams said after her 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 win over Lindsay Davenport.

"When I first won the US Open (1999), I went to the movies (she saw Sixth Sense). Maybe I'll go get something—I'm not heavy on alcohol, so that won't be part of the agenda. Like I said, I'm not big on celebrations. Maybe I should be."

In an earlier television interview, however, she admitted she might go shopping.

"I'm addicted to coats," said Williams. "Even though I live in Florida and I don't need coats."

During the trophy presentations Saturday, Williams thanks her entourage, including her mother, Oracene. When the camera panned to Oracene, she rolled her eyes.

"She always does that," said Serena. "That's her way of saying she's really shy. That's her way of saying thank-you. Plus we have like this inside joke, so that's all it was."

Serena will leave Melbourne in the next few days. *AP*

Navratilova loses doubles match

MELBOURNE, Australia—Martina Navratilova won't be adding to her career Grand Slam titles at this year's Australian Open.

Navratilova, 48, and Max Mirnyi of Belarus lost their semifinal mixed doubles match Saturday to Kevin Ullyett of Zimbabwe and Liezel Huber of South Africa, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8).

Navratilova has 18 Grand Slam singles titles, 31 doubles and nine in mixed doubles.

Mirnyi came in as Navratilova's mixed doubles partner when Leander Paes, who won the Australian and Wimbledon titles with her in 2003, injured his foot at the Sydney International two weeks ago.

Navratilova and Daniela Hantuchova lost their quarterfinal doubles match to eventual champions Svetlana Kuznetsova and Alicia Molik.

Hewitt fan

If Lleyton Hewitt had a fan club at Melbourne Park this week, it sounds as if Marat Safin, his opponent in Sunday's Australian Open final, might be a card-carrying member.

Safin said at a news conference Sunday that although Hewitt is often underestimated by the media and public, the players feel otherwise.

"Everybody has so much respect for him, even though you guys write that he doesn't have the power, he doesn't have as much talent as others," said Safin. "He's a huge fighter. He has unbelievable anticipation." *AP*

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's championship, Zimbabwe's vin Ullyett, seeded fifth, beat ins Bob and Mike Bryan, 6-4,

who teamed to win the 2001 on their fifth match point un- od Laver Arena after rain dur-

Zimbabweans thought they rd match point—with Ullyett final game—but an overrule return from Mike Bryan that t halted their celebrations

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was called out. The umpire t was good. But the mark was ht space there, I thought," Ul-

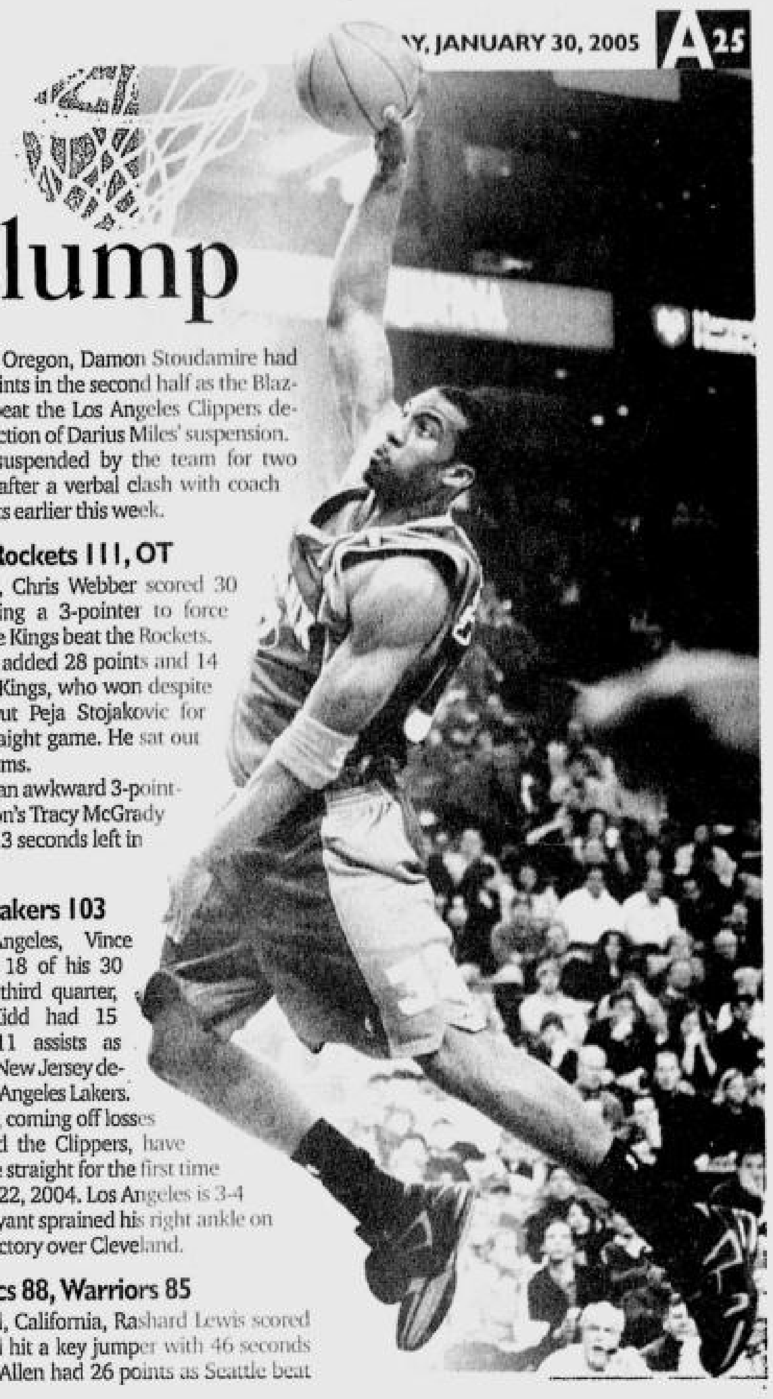
h was as sweet as the first

al," said Ullyett. "The first one , we've backed it up with an- really good to me."

ded emotion for Ullyett, who her Rob, who died of cancer a pity that he wasn't here to one," he said. Black's father ncer four years ago—on the

e out of bed from the age of is father. "He always gave me Wayne's dad was the same. d definitely not maybe have e." AP

Penny hits money shot, breaks Knicks' woeful slump



PHOENIX Suns forward Amare Stoudemire drives in for a dunk during the second half against the Boston Celtics in Boston. AP

NEW YORK—Penny Hardaway showed no rust in his first game in more than three weeks, making a jumper with 36 seconds remaining Friday as the New York Knicks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers, 99-96, to end a seven-game losing streak.

Six days after taking over for Lenny Wilkens, Herb Williams gained his first victory as coach of the Knicks.

"I talked to my teammates to see what was going on internally, see how everyone was feeling and tried to get them off the losing streak that we were on," said Hardaway. "Hopefully this will turn us around in a positive direction."

Hardaway, activated from the injured list prior to the game, scored 12 points against Cleveland, which was without LeBron James. He sprained an ankle Wednesday against Memphis.

Bobcats 101, Raptors 94

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Kareem Rush scored 21 points and the Bobcats figured out how to make foul shots in time to snap a 10-game losing streak with a 101-94 victory Friday over the Toronto Raptors.

Awful at the line during its skid, Charlotte made 17 of 19 attempts in winning for the first time since Jan. 5 against Minnesota. The Bobcats' only misses came in the final minute of the game.

Magic 108, Wizards 101

In Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu matched his career high with 31 points—17 in the second quarter—and Orlando ended Washington's four-game winning streak.

Grant Hill added 22 points and eight rebounds for Orlando, and Steve Francis made two freethrows with 16.6 seconds left to seal the win. Gilbert Arenas scored 18 of his 30 in the fourth quarter for Washington.

Suns 128, Celtics 119

In Boston, Amare Stoudemire scored 42 points, Quentin Richardson added 23 and Phoenix downed Boston for its fourth straight win.

Joe Johnson and Jim Jackson scored 17 points each for the Suns, Shawn Marion added 16 and Steve Nash had 13 points and 15 assists.

Heat 106, Hawks 96

In Atlanta, Miami's Shaquille O'Neal scored 26 points and actually made more freethrows than he missed as the Heat beat the Hawks.

Shandon Anderson, taking the place of an ailing Eddie Jones, added 21 points for the Heat, who lead the Eastern Conference with a 32-13 record—including 16-8 on the road.

O'Neal finished 6-of-11 at the foul line.

Timberwolves 93, Jazz 91

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 25 points and a key steal in the final minute to help the Timberwolves edge the Jazz for its fifth straight victory.

With the Timberwolves ahead, 93-91, Utah was going for the tying basket when Garnett stole Raul Lopez's outlet pass. Garnett fed a breaking Sam Cassell for a layup and a four-point lead.

Hornets 99, 76ers 95, OT

In New Orleans, P.J. Brown scored six of his season-high 20 points in overtime, and had 10 rebounds to lead New Orleans past Philadelphia.

The 76ers were without NBA-leading scorer Allen Iverson, sitting out a second straight game with a strained left shoulder.

Nuggets 106, Bucks 100

In Milwaukee, George Karl made a triumphant return to the NBA at the expense of his former team, directing Denver over Milwaukee.

Out of the NBA since the Bucks fired him in 2003, Karl took over the Nuggets on Thursday. Denver axed Jeff Bzdelik on Dec. 28, and Michael Cooper coached the team on an interim basis.

Trail Blazers 90, Clippers 86

In Portland, Oregon, Damon Stoudamire had 18 of his 22 points in the second half as the Blazers rallied to beat the Los Angeles Clippers despite the distraction of Darius Miles' suspension.

Miles was suspended by the team for two games Friday after a verbal clash with coach Maurice Cheeks earlier this week.

Kings 117, Rockets 111, OT

In Houston, Chris Webber scored 30 points, including a 3-pointer to force overtime as the Kings beat the Rockets.

Mike Bibby added 28 points and 14 assists for the Kings, who won despite playing without Peja Stojakovic for the second straight game. He sat out with back spasms.

Webber hit an awkward 3-pointer over Houston's Tracy McGrady to tie it with 1.3 seconds left in regulation.

Nets 109, Lakers 103

In Los Angeles, Vince Carter scored 18 of his 30 points in the third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 15 points and 11 assists as short-handed New Jersey defeated the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Lakers, coming off losses to Seattle and the Clippers, have dropped three straight for the first time since Jan. 19-22, 2004. Los Angeles is 3-4 since Kobe Bryant sprained his right ankle on Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland.

SuperSonics 88, Warriors 85

In Oakland, California, Rashard Lewis scored 24 points and hit a key jumper with 46 seconds left, and Ray Allen had 26 points as Seattle beat Golden State.

Luke Ridnour scored 14 points and Reggie Evans had a career-high 17 rebounds for the Sonics. AP

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k it's going to be a prob- crowd," said Safin, who ie has played in front of Cup fans in France—and e helpful."

age, at least on paper, is ier than last year, when back-to-back five-set ist Roddick in the quar- Andre Agassi in the semi- me out flat against Fed- th birthday, he did play a arathon to beat Federer, h easier time before that vo days off before the fi-

anwhile, has struggled fighting problems with while outlasting oppo- ing to become the first his event since Mark Ed- 976. The last Aussie to I was Pat Cash, who lost rg in 1987 and Mats Wi- , both in five sets.

aid I'd give anything to ch for the title here in ie said. "I love this place. iat dream has come true iance on Sunday night." AP

Sosa soon an Oriole

NEW YORK—The Chicago Cubs were close to agreement on a trade to send unhappy slugger Sammy Sosa to the Baltimore Orioles, several high-ranking baseball officials told The Associated Press.

Medical tests and approval from commissioner Bud Selig and the players' association remain unresolved, the officials said Friday night, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Cubs would pay a substantial part of Sosa's $17 million salary this season, the executives said. Sosa would agree to void his salary in 2006, they also said.

In exchange, Chicago would receive second baseman Jerry Hairston Jr. and two prospects.

Sosa's contract gives the Cubs an $18 million option in 2006 with a $4.5 million buyout. But the contract says that if he is traded, his 2006 salary would become guaranteed and a 2007 club option would be added at $19 million with a $4.5 million buyout.

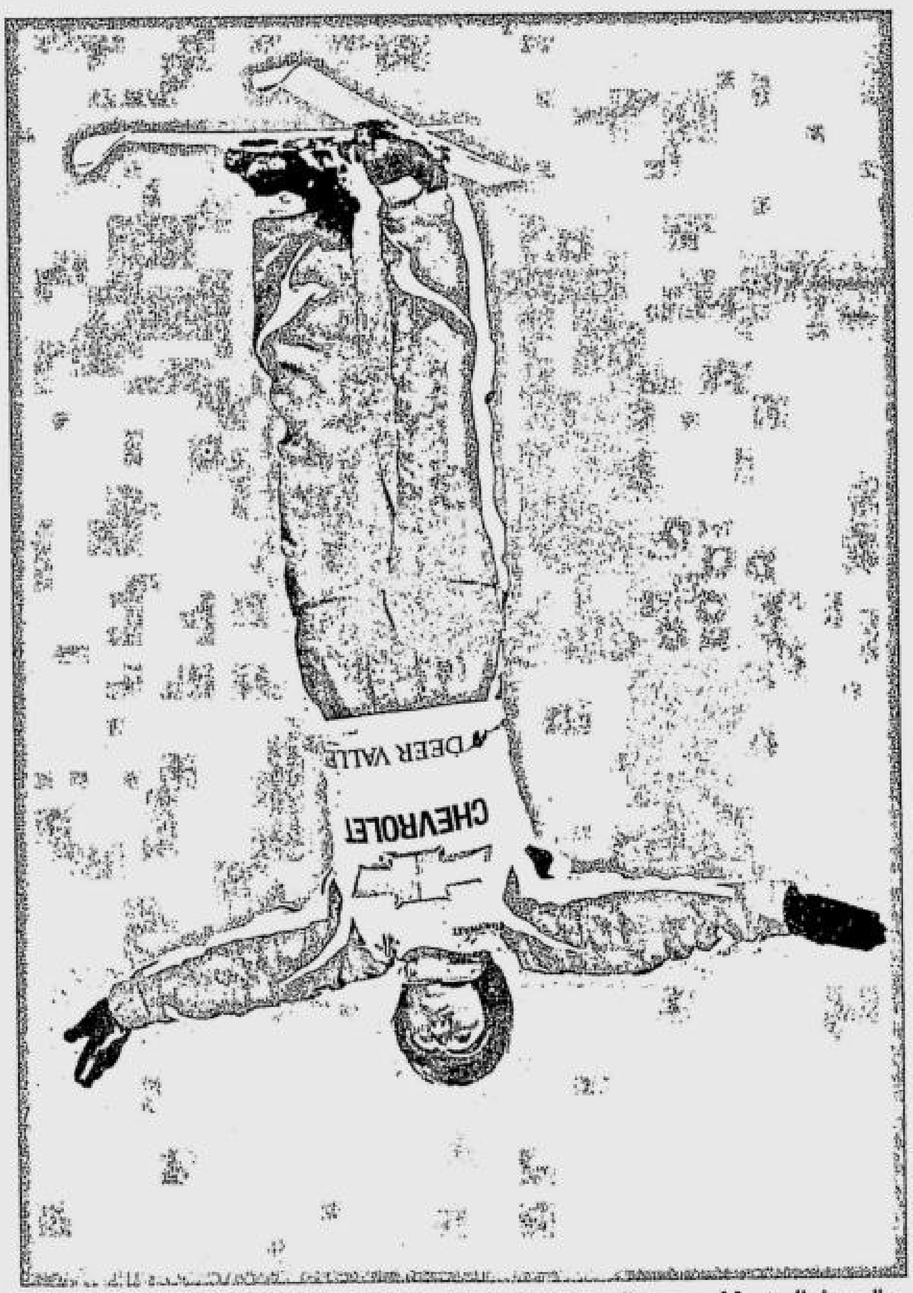
The players' association had told Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, several weeks ago that voiding the option would not be a problem.

The teams had not finalized a deal, all the executives said. Selig's approval is necessary because the trade would involve the transfer of $1 million or more.

Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie and vice president Mike Flanagan could not be reached for comment. Cubs spokesman Sharon Panazzo also could not be reached for comment and Katz declined to comment.

The Cubs have been looking for a taker for Sosa since the end of the season, when he skipped out on the finale at Wrigley Field. Sosa initially claimed he didn't leave until the seventh inning, but the Cubs produced videotapes showing him leaving shortly after the game began and fined him $87,500—one day's salary.

The New York Mets were initially thought to be the best bet because general manager Omar Minaya signed Sosa when he was a teenager in the Dominican Republic. AP



IT'S NOT your paper folks. World Cup points leader Lydia Lerodiaconou of Australia is really upside down as she competes in the women's aerials during the Chevrolet Freestyle International World Cup at Deer Valley Resort in Park City, Utah. AFP

'Curse' ball finds home for a year

BOSTON—The baseball Doug Mientkiewicz caught for the out that ended the Boston Red Sox 86-year World Series drought is going back to the team—for one year, anyway.

The club and its former first baseman announced on Friday that while no decision has been made on who owns the ball, it will be encased in a special plaque and join the World Series trophy on its victory tour.

"Doug was a key part of our stretch run and postseason victories and he won over our fans in a very short period of time," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said. "We thank him for his many contributions and are pleased that our fans will be able to get close to the ball. We wish him the best of luck in the other league in 2005."

Mientkiewicz was traded on Wednesday to the New York Mets. He's a better fielder than Boston's other first baseman, Kevin Millar, but lacks Millar's power at the plate.

Mientkiewicz, the 2001 Gold Glove winner with Minnesota, kept the World Series ball as a souvenir. The team asked for it back this month and the decision was made to let the Red Sox display it.

"There was never a fight, there was never words exchanged" over ownership of the ball, Mientkiewicz said this week. "It was very cordial, and we worked something out.

"I want the fans to see it, and that's what both the Red Sox and I agreed on. They waited a long time to see that ball and to live it. The fact that I had it was just so we could keep it and give it to the fans and let them see it."

He also said he "probably" would get the ball back after a year.

On Friday, the statement issued by the Red Sox and Mientkiewicz said that at his suggestion, proceeds directly derived from exhibiting the ball will be donated to the Red Sox Foundation, the team's charity organization. AP

Joe cool on hot round, leads Hope diadem chasers

LA QUINTA, California—Joe Ogilvie downplayed his round after shooting a 6-under 66 to go to 23 under and the third-round lead in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic on Friday.

"I got lucky, basically. The way I played, 66 was a gift," said Ogilvie, who holds a two-shot lead over Australian Peter Lonard.

Ogilvie shot a 63 a day earlier and said then that, while he was leading "scorewise" with a three-shot edge over Phil Mickelson, he considered Mickelson "technically" in the lead. That was because Mickelson already had played the more difficult of the four courses used for the five-day tournament.

Defending champion Mickelson, also the 2002 winner, wasn't in the lead technically or otherwise after 54 holes, with his 70 dropping him seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Fredrik Jacobson of Sweden remained close with a 67 that left him third at 19 under.

Craig Stadler, who won the Hope in 1980 for his first tour victory, shot his way into contention with a 65 that put him in a group with Mickelson at 16 under, seven shots behind Ogilvie.

Stadler said he probably would have skipped the Hope if his son, Kevin, wasn't also in the field. Kevin Stadler was 5 under through 54 holes.

"I think he's kind of hot that I keep scoring better than he does every day," Craig said. "I'd much rather give all my birdies to him, though. Hopefully, he'll put six or seven (birdies) together tomorrow and be good enough to make the cut."

Ogilvie made much of his own luck during the third round, rolling in birdie putts of 20, 15, 25, 18 and 22 feet on his first nine holes.

He began his round on the back nine at Tamarisk Country Club and had a 5-under 31 at the turn. He made two birdies and a bogey over his last nine holes.

"I easily could have shot 37 instead of 31," he said of the first nine, when his drives tended to stray. "I could easily have bogeyed three out of my first five holes. On the back side of Tamarisk, they've got white soldiers—out-of-bounds stakes—on both sides of the fairways.

"Every time I looked up, I saw out-of-bounds stakes, so it wasn't the greatest mental picture I've ever had. But I got away with it."

His only "main hiccup" during the round, he said, came on the par-5 No. 4, his 13th hole of the day.

Davis Love III had 11 birdies and no bogeys on his way to a 61 that vaulted him from a 66th-place tie into a tie for seventh at 11 under. AP

PETER Lonard is currently at second place. AP

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La Salle GH benefit golf slated Feb. 2

THE LA SALLE Greenhills Alumni Association (LSGHAA), in cooperation with the LSGH Class '80, will be hosting the 13th Drive for a Cause Golf Tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

Net proceeds of the fund-raising project will be presented as contribution to the La Salle Christian Brothers' various outreach programs for the less-fortunate such as the Adult Night High School, Street Children Program, Signum Fidei and Big Brother project.

The tournament, which will use the Modified Peoria System and has classes A, B, C and D, as well as the Batch Competition with Class '78 gearing up for a "three-peat," is open to all alumni and friends of La Salle schools.

Tee-off time is from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m., while the awarding ceremonies will be held on Feb. 5, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It will coincide with the Alumni Homecoming hosted by this year's Silver Jubilarians, Class '80, at the Gazebo of the LSGH campus.

Tournament fee is pegged at P2,000 for non-members and P1,000 for members with exciting prizes at stake for participants. For information, call the LSGHAA at 721-2729, look for Ludie Bautista.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Flying Strike 2. Mika Mix 3. Galaxy Wars 4. Valid Hazm
Race 2—1. Solid North 2. Loaded 3. Yankee Vlipper 4. Dynamic JL
Race 3—1. Marque 2. Winter's Fury/Perfect Storm
Race 4—1. Refreshing 2. Split Decision 3. Time Deposit 4. Sky Bound
Race 5—1. Throttle 2. Storm Gauge 3. Oh Man I'm Sweet
Race 6—1. Amazing Firenze 2. Mr. Bonjing 3. Power of the Wind 4. Going Strike 5. Batang Kalookan
Race 7—1. Adam's Call 2. Glamour
Race 8—1. Bronic 2. Dynamic Jason 3. D Joy of the Wild 4. Miltied Forever
Race 9—1. Ruah 2. Scrap of Gold 3. Palm It Off
Race 10—1. Pay to See 2. I Remain 3. Best of Circle 4. Sir John
Race 11—1. Golden Africa 2. Noble Red 3. Guts 4. Dulce My Love
Race 12—1. Time to Party 2. Born Perfect 3. Arbiter 4. Coat of Arms
Race 13—1. Seniority 2. Stradivarius 3. Doctor Steve 4. Sakura Ijhay 5. Ocean Cookie 6. Shure Bull

SMART ENDORSER: Jennifer Rosales tees-off after her contract signing as a Smart endorser on Friday. At the background from left are Smart executives Ricky Isla, Julie Carceller and Boy Martirez. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Que remains in contention; Briton ahead

SINGAPORE—Filipino Angelo Que remained one of the top Asian performers, firing a third consecutive round of two-under-par 70 yesterday to keep a share of ninth place in the $ 1million Caltex Singapore Open here.

Holding his ground against the big guns of the European Tour, Que was on course to posting his best score in three days until he slipped with his only bogey of the day on the par-3 17th.

The 26-year-old Que, who clinched his first ever title abroad as a pro by winning the Vietnam Open last year, had a 210 total, six under par over the water-laced Laguna National Golf Club.

He was seven shots behind Nick Dougherty of England, who birdied the last three holes for a four-under 68 that kept him on top by two strokes over the fancied Colin Montgomerie of Scotland and Thomas Bjorn of Denmark at 203.

Bjorn shot an eagle-spiked 67 and Montgomerie scored 69.

Only Chinese ace Liang Wen-chong, who was tied for seventh with Frenchman Gregory Havret, was standing better than Que in the race for top Asian honors.

Should he hold his form today and post a top 10 finish, Que will be assured of another million-peso payoff.

The only Filipino regular campaigner in the Asian Tour birdied two of the first three holes and picked up another on the 16th to go three under for the day.

But his miscue on the next hole, which is one of the toughest on the course, somewhat pulled him down. Bjorn and Montgomerie also bogeyed the same 17th hole.

Rick Gibson of Canada carded a 71 and was bunched in 23rd spot at 213. Also in the group was Lee Westwood. *Jong Arcano*

Alabang's Mango Tee offers ₱6M in prizes

AN OVERBOOKED roster of 640 members and guests will take a crack at prizes worth more than P6 million when the 21st edition of the Mango Tee tourney co-presented by Smart Communications and Pilipinas Shell tees off on Feb. 2-6 at the exclusive Alabang Country Club course in Muntinlupa.

Foremost among the prizes are four exciting models of Mitsubishi cars—the just-launched Montero and Grandis valued at P1.5 million each, Adventure and Lancer GLS—jointly provided by Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Inc. and Citimotors as hole-in-one prizes.

A lucky acemaker on any of the four par-3s of Alabang would end up going home with a big bonus prize as Turf Co. (Club Car) and Kart Plaza Manufacturing (Yamaha) are also giving away new models of their golf carts as prizes for a hole-in-one on designated holes.

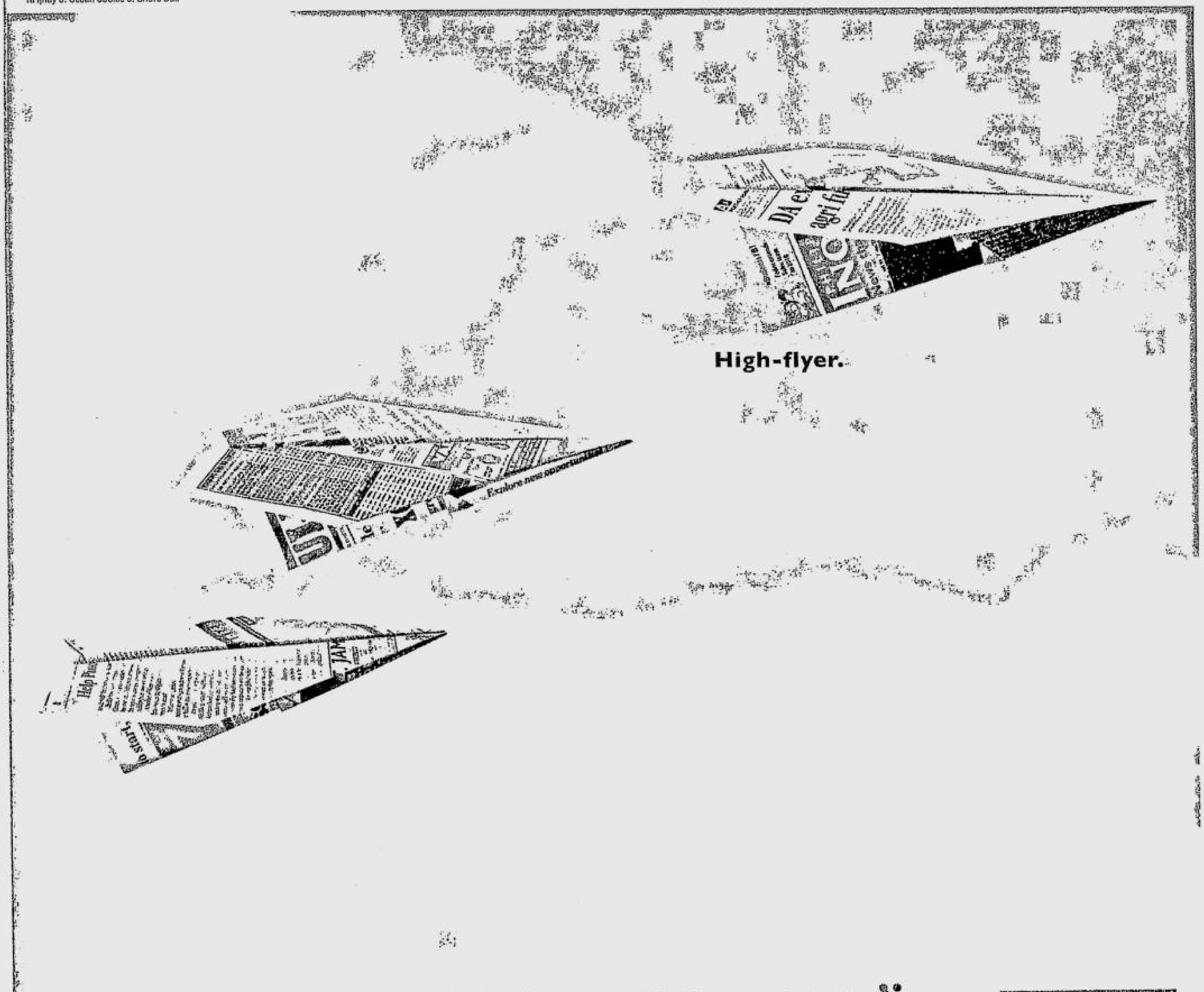
"This Mango Tee is going to be remembered for a lot of reasons," said Jun Galindez, head of the organizing committee which is throwing away P1.2 worth of appliances, golf equipment, computers into the raffle on Feb. 6.

TaylorMade adidas/Golf Depot and Sharp Philippines are Mango Tee's major sponsors, Ayala Greenfield Estate, Chinatrust, Foodlink and Standard Chartered are area sponsors while Nescafe, Nestea, Pepsi Cola and Security Bank/Diners Club are premium sponsors.

Hole sponsors are ACRO Industrial, Andi Tabusalla, Ayala Greenfield Estate, Beacon Environmental Management C-Lium Fibre of Garsworth Marketing, City Service, GG&A Clubshares, Golfers Clubshares Inc., Green Cross, Hewlett Packard Phils., Joseph Rice Center/Jan Barandiaran, MIS Maritime, Corp., Prudential Life Group, Tanduay Distillers, Safe Seas Shipping, San Miguel Corp., Teddy Tiqui, Lor Calma Design & Associates, True Value and YKK.

Former president Fidel V. Ramos has been invited to join the board of directors of ACCI led by president Fernando Balatbat and chair Gil Yuzon in the ceremonial tee-offs and cocktails set tomorrow.

OV Espiritu and Tommy Manotoc are returning to seek a repeat of their double victory last year where they won both the low net and low gross titles.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

Lady Pirates seek V-League semifinals today

By Musong R. Castillo

LETRAN and Lyceum slug it out for a place in the Shakey's V-League semifinals even as PSC "chooses" its final four opponent today when it collides with La Salle at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Lady Knights need no less than a win in their 1 p.m. clash with the Lady Pirates even if they have a half-a-game advantage over Lyceum going into today's final day of elimination.

Letran has a 5-6 record, and if Lyceum pulls even with a win for identical 5-7 slates, the Lady Pirates will book semifinal slot No. 4 by virtue of a superior quotient.

The Lady Legends, meanwhile, play for nothing but to determine their foes in the final four, having booked No. 3 seeding last week with a five-set victory over Lyceum.

Tats Suzara, the outspoken PSC coach, had declared that he wants to face defending champion Santo Tomas in the semis. And that would mean losing against the Lady Archers today.

"Of course not," Suzara said. "We'll still go for the win."

"I just feel that we match up better against them, the games that we lost [against UST] both going five sets," added Suzara.

Santo Tomas won both elimination round games with the Legends—18-25, 25-16, 17-25, 25-14, 15-9 in the first round and 25-19, 26-28, 25-18, 20-25, 15-12 in the second.

Suzara had said that he will make the finals no matter whom he plays in the semis, and this has drawn the ire of some opposing coaches, especially UST's August Sta. Maria.

"I don't see any problem if he (Suzara) feels that we are the weaker team," Sta. Maria said. "We just play hard every game."

PSC is coming off a 28-26, 19-25, 23-25, 25-20, 15-13 win over Lyceum on Tuesday.

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
1 p.m.—Lyceum vs Letran
3 p.m.—La Salle vs PSC

M. Lhuillier tops Sinulog invt'l caging

CEBU CITY—M. Lhuillier-Cebu City Jewelers kept their poise down the stretch to thwart the Quezon Coco Huskers, 97-87, and capture the 2005 Mayor Tomas Osmeña Sinulog Invitational Cup Friday at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

What was expected to be a one-sided affair turned out to be a thriller as the Huskers, then trailing 65-78, rallied behind Mike Manigo and Jeff Flowers and threatened at 85-87 with 1:10 remaining.

But Jewelers' import and consistent top scorer John Grice hit a fade away, Bruce Dacia made two freethrows and an undergoal stab while Bobby Parks capped a 10-0 endgame run with a powerful slam in the final 18 seconds to wrap up the title.

"Quezon was a tough opponent because they were basically a URBL All-Star Selection," said M. Lhuillier coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba. "Our imports played well but it was our local players who made a splendid performance tonight. Bruce showed us once again that he is worthy to become the captain of this team."

The Jewelers thus kept the crown they won last year over the San Sebastian College-Cavite Baycats in the weeklong tournament organized by the City Government of Cebu and Cebu City Sports Commission in cooperation with the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the United Regional Basketball League.

Dacia scattered 27 points to lift the Jewelers to victory. Grice followed with 20 points while Parks, Woodraw Enriquez and Leo Bat-og added 18, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Earlier, the Philippine Training Team claimed third place via a 93-73 triumph over Konkuk University of South Korea.

The North Cotabato Braves and Fujian Province Selection from China finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Niño Cañaleta again led the Nationals with 19 points. Ricky Calimag and Clark Moore chipped in 15 points each.

With the Sinulog Cup now completed, the Jewelers and the Huskers now gird for the bigger battle ahead as the URBL regular season opens in March. The Jewelers are looking forward to a back-to-back URBL plum.

"Our performance in the Sinulog Cup is a sign of how the team will perform come the next URBL season," said Alcoseba, also a Cebu City councilor, during M. Lhuillier's victory party at Baseline Restaurant. "We are now ready to defend our crown."

The scores:

First game: Battle for third place

RP 93—Cañaleta 19, Calimag 15, Moore 15, Bombeo 12, Manalo 9, Saldua 7, Villarnin 5, Luanzon 5, Latoreno 4, Javier 3, Cavan 2, Echavez 2, Ayodelle 2.

SOUTH KOREA 73—Soo 16, Kyun 11, Hyun 10, Sam 10, Sak 8, Il Young 7, Sang 4, Kenn 2, Hun 2.

Second game (championship)

M. LHUILLIER 97—Dacia 27, Grice 20, Parks 18, Enriquez 11, Bat-og 10, Marata 7, Cañoneo 2, Ocañada 2.

QUEZON 87—Manigo 20, Flowers 14, Sanz 13, Marquez 11, A. Rodriguez 9, Alcantara 8, Hardin 4, Bansil 4.

Quarters: 20-17, 49-47, 78-65, 97-87.

St. Francis five gains final seat

ST. FRANCIS of Assissi crushed Arellano, 73-64, yesterday to advance to the finals of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) junior basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The Dovelets arranged a best-of-three championship showdown with Olivarez High School, which found itself being handed the other finals berth on a silver platter. The series begins Feb. 7.

The Olivarez dribblers won by default over the Colegio de San Lorenzo Baby Griffins, who showed up with the wrong set of uniforms.

Richard Cruz strung up 21 points in leading the Dovelets to their 10th finals appearance under coach Christopher Villamayor.

By reaching the championship, the Dovelets have already improved on their third-place performance last season.

Cruz nailed seven points as the Dovelets took charge with a 22-15 lead in the first quarter.

Arnold Arellano hit 17 points, scoring 12—all from three-point region—in the third period as the Dovelets took charge, 62-49.

This enabled the Dovelets to overcome a 34-35 halftime deficit and gain a 10-point edge, 68-58, at the end of the third quarter. Arellano could not recover from there.

The Arellano dribblers are only on their first season in the NCRAA, which is the biggest collegiate league in the country in terms of enrollment.

Men's world volley elims in Cebu City

IT'S ALL systems go for the staging of the 2006 Men's World Championship First Round Tournament on March 2 to 6 at the University of San Carlos Gymnasium in Cebu City.

Top volleyball players from Tonga, Chinese-Taipei, Indonesia, Macau and host Philippines will try to advance to the second round of the Asia Group-C for the 2006 World championship in Japan.

"Everything is set already," said International Volleyball Federation Development Commission officer Tats Suzara. "We are ready for the biggest volleyball tournament to be held in the Queen City of the South."

Suzara said the Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau headed by Patrick Gregorio has given its full support to ensure the successful hosting of the tourney organized by the Philippine Volleyball Federation.

PVF president Roger Banzuela and Organizing committee chair Richard Palou said the RP Men's squad will go all-out to qualify for the next round.

Banzuela has tasked AG and A Communications as its marketing arm to ensure the success of the event.

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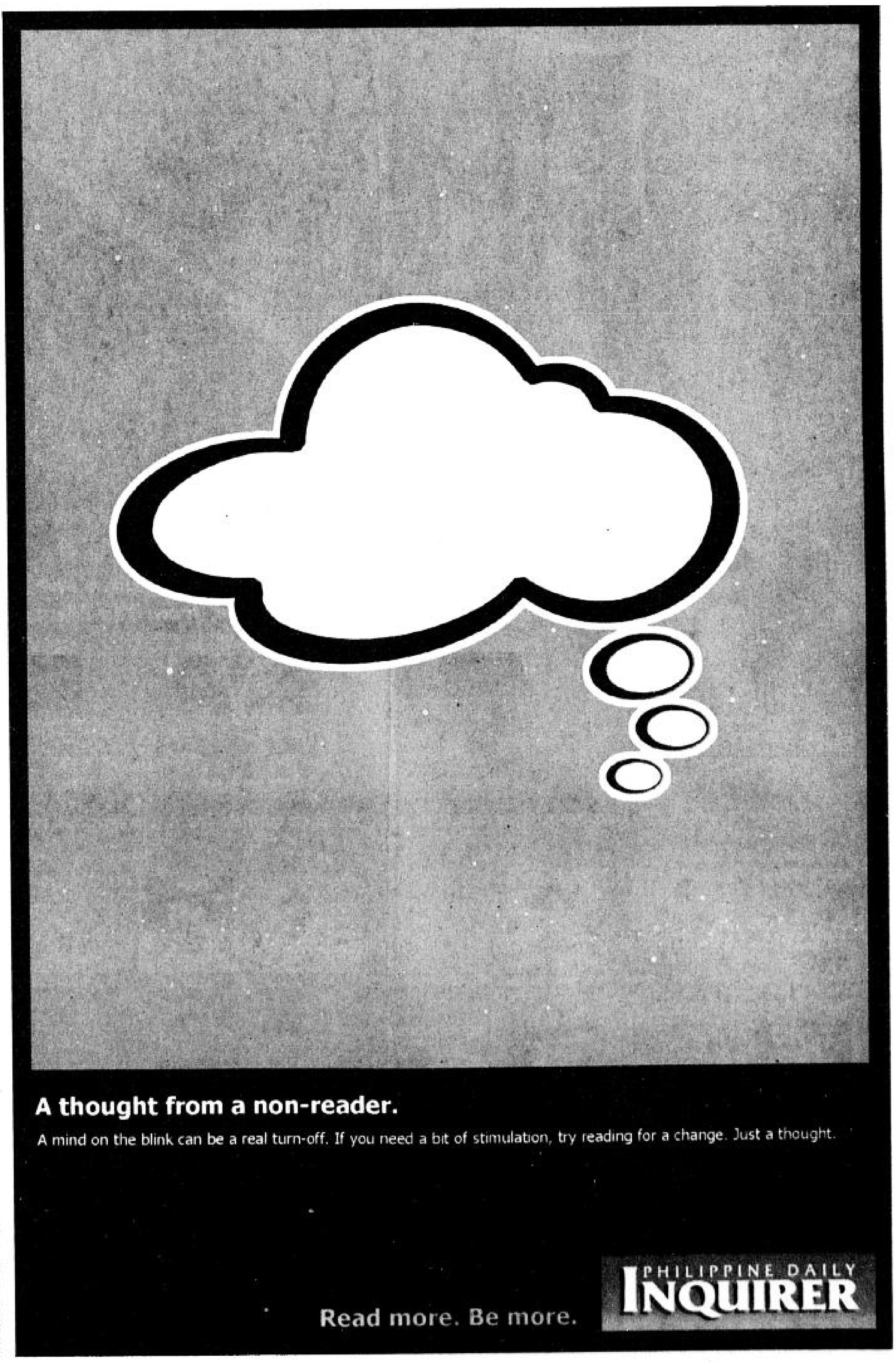
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vilog, Araullo risk triathlon titles

By Jasmine W. Payo

BAYAWAN CITY—Veteran triathlete George Vilog is hoping for redemption.

After bagging the National Triathlon Championship crown in Guimaras last year, Vilog was suspended from the national team for disciplinary reasons. And until now, he chose to be tight-lipped regarding that humbling experience.

"*Basta sasali lang ako* (I'll just take part)," said Vilog, who will try to defend his title in the 2005 NTC today here in Negros Oriental.

Apparently, Vilog has learned his lessons. And through this event, which will serve as one of the three qualifying races in the national team, the 27-year-old athlete is hoping to get back on the right track.

Vilog, however, will be facing tough competition in New Jersey-based Arland Macasieb, the top Filipino finisher in the Asian Triathlon Championship; former champions Abet Alon-Alon and Noel Salvador, 2004 National Age Group Triathlon Series champion Sean Lim and RP team assistant coach Peter Gonzales.

Other strong contenders are the younger members of the national pool like Mark Yamoyam, Eldy Banluta and Mikki Quilala.

"The biggest advantage of our younger triathletes will be in the swim leg," observed Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines. "But the veterans will rely on their strength in the bike and run legs."

Sandra Araullo will be defending the ladies division title, and just like Vilog, remains mum regarding her chances.

Hoping to foil Araullo's bid are Ani de Leon, who has won back-to-back national titles, teenage runners LC Langit, Alexandra Ganzon and Mimi Lucas and former national junior champion Kaye Lopez.

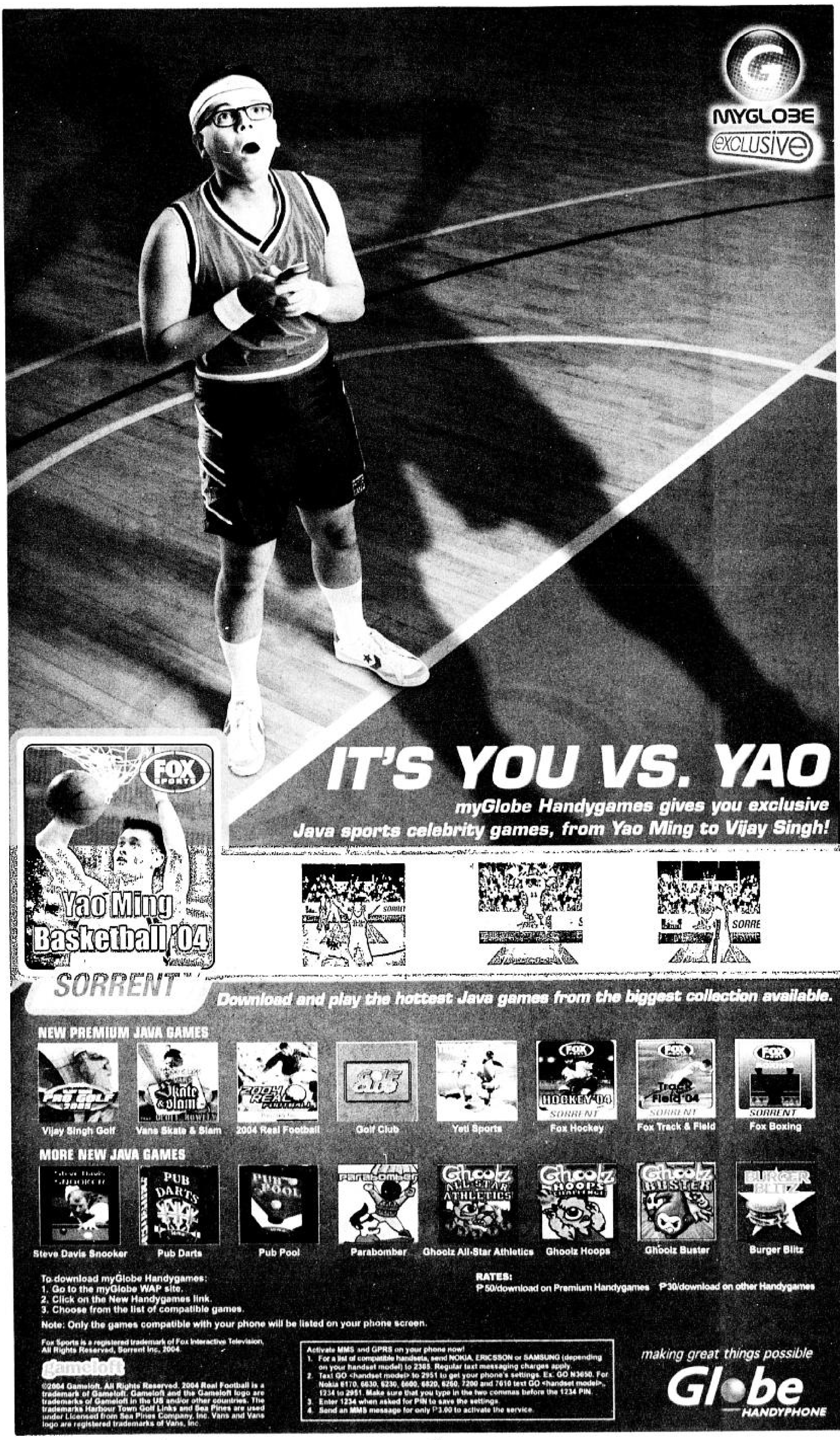
Meanwhile, young triathletes Joash Serrano, Kim Mangrobang and Andrew Gatmaitan are favored in the sprint junior category.

"We expect the race to be a fast one considering that the race course in both the bike and the run legs will be on flat and well-paved roads," noted Carrasco.

Twenty local participants from Bayawan City and Dumaguete City will also be joining the event.

"We're hoping to bring this kind of sport to the people of Bayawan," said city mayor German Saraña Jr. "We have high-caliber athletes we have not seen."

The event is sponsored by AMP Smart, Speedo, David's Salon, David's Skin and Face Spa, PowerBar, Asian Centre for Insulation, New Balance, Stronghold Insurance, Reliv and supported by SBMA, Philippine Sports Commission, POC-Sports For All Commission, the local governments of Bayawan City and Guimaras and Hotel La Corona-Manila.



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CATUBAY

Catubay, Lebanese to dispute fly crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

REIGNING Philippine flyweight champ Federico Catubay leaves for Australia on Wednesday to challenge Lebanese Hussein Hussein for the vacant OPBF flyweight title.

The standout of the SGG stable will slug it out with the Australia-based Hussein on Feb. 6 at the Panthers World of Entertainment in New South Wales, confident of going home with the championship.

"I am going to Australia to fight," Catubay said in Cebuano in an interview yesterday at the ALA Gym where he trains. "I hope Hussein will not run too much. The fans want a real fight, not a track and field meet."

Catubay will be accompanied by promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani.

The 24-year-old Catubay is coming off big wins over ex-WBC junior fly king Yosam Choi and Mongolian Yura Dima.

Gello-ani, meanwhile, expressed confidence that the OPBF-appointed judges and referee will render a fair decision for the fight.

Hussein, trained by brother Billy and the charismatic Jeff Fenech, has a 26-1 card with 20 KOs, the only loss coming at the hands of WBC flyweight king Pongsaklek Wongjongkam in 2003.

The Bellevue Polo Cup set

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, Alabang's premier business and leisure hotel, together with Mont Blanc, will hold its first Polo Cup on Feb. 27 at the Alabang Country Club Polo field.

Polo enthusiasts from the metropolis, Ayala Alabang Village residents and other VIP's from top companies are expected to witness this event as the Alabang Polo Club and Manila Polo Club battle each other for this season's championship trophy.

Johnny Litton will be the host during the awarding ceremony, where Bellevue's Executive Chef Hans Peter Eckstein has prepared sumptuous food and cocktails.

Awards and prizes from Bellevue, Mont Blanc, BMW and other sponsors await the winners. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

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ENTERTAINMENT

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'Goodbye to the whole J. Lo thing'

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

RESPECT. Call her J. Lo, Jenny or Jennifer Lopez—just take her more seriously.

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

NEW YORK—Jennifer Lopez walks into a hotel room already apologizing even before we could see her celebrated backside.

"If my answers don't make sense," she warns, laughing, "let me apologize now."

The singer-actress has just flown back to the East Coast. She was honored earlier at a benefit gala by the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles for her charity work.

Apparently, if we are to believe the diva, flying on a private jet is not much different from catching the bargain-rate red-eye flight from LA to the Big Apple.

"There are no rooms on private jets," she tells the masses—namely, journalists. "It's just like flying regular. You still have to get yourself in the seat. So I was able to make it here."

The Artist Who Changed Her Mind About No Longer Wanting To Be Called J. Lo offers the overnight trip as an explanation for her "slowness" today. She requests reporters not to ask questions in rapid-fire succession. She tells one: "Okay, hold on. Let me answer one at a time because I can't follow (laughs). I can't follow today."

Today, La Lopez also seems eager to put her "Bennifer" days behind her. Mrs. Marc Anthony's reticence, at least this afternoon, to dwell on her personal life, is conveyed in her conservative look. She is all covered up in a long-sleeved silk blouse and long green skirt. However, the skirt is so tight, that her famous behind juts out.

The Latina superstar has retracted an earlier statement that she no longer wanted to be called J. Lo. She wanted to say "goodbye to the whole J. Lo thing," she said, and "the out-of-control diva stories, whether true or not."

She reportedly planned to call her latest album "Call Me Jennifer" but now the CD, to be released in March, is titled "Rebirth."

Doing her best

J. Lo, Jennifer, or Jenny on the Block, whatever, chews gum throughout the interview. Speaking in that sweet, light voice, she steers clear of the personal stuff but maintains a humorous mood. When a writer asks a question and mentions a quote from her, Jenny from the Bronx quips, "A quote from me? Don't believe it." But from time to time, she seems determined to be taken more seriously.

Asked how she copes with press people who "love to tear her to pieces," Mrs. Marc Anthony replies: "Not very well. It hurts. I am just working hard... trying to do the best I can. I am able to deal with it only because I don't live my life in a way that I will be ashamed of. I'm able to go to sleep at night and... feel good about the things that I've done that day. I don't hurt anybody. I love my family. I do my best in relationships and try to be giving [always] because that's how my mom and dad raised me."

The press has been easy these days on Lopez, whose J. Lo diva-hood days reached their nadir when she and then boyfriend P. Diddy were arrested for gun possession and fleeing after a New York club shooting incident (no charges were filed against her).

The only issue hounding her right now is a lawsuit supposedly filed against her by husband Number One, Ojani Noa, a former waiter. He claims the superstar wrongly fired him as manager of Madre's, her restaurant in Pasadena, California. (Husband Number Two, of course, was Filipino-American dancer Cris Judd.)

"SHALL WE DANCE?" "I think we did okay," she says of her movie with Richard Gere.

Does she feel, indeed, that the press frenzy about her has calmed down? "I've become a little more reserved and that was the whole idea—to get the focus off my personal life and on my work again. I feel everything got a little bit out of control for a while. I've worked really hard and tried to grow with each project, [but] it seemed like nobody [noticed] that."

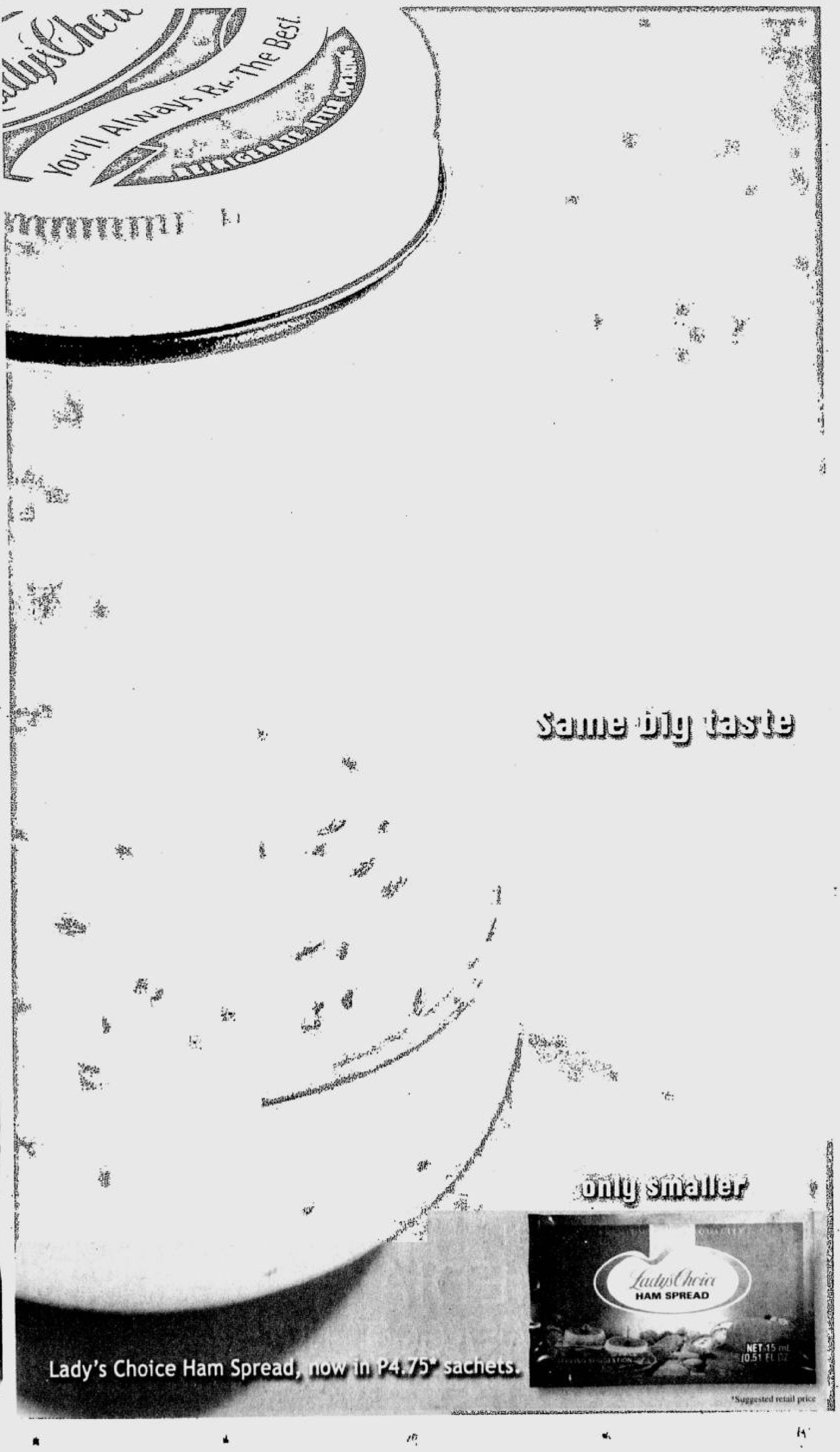
Making adjustments

The former TV back-up dancer (on the series "In Living Color") takes responsibility for her decisions, past and present. "I like to think that I have a really good gut [feel] and that I don't need people to tell me this or that was wrong. Nobody is going to make me become like some weird recluse in my own house. I'm going to stay normal.

"[But sometimes] you have to make adjustments. I certainly have. I love what I do, and I want to be seen for that, not for who I'm with."

As for being called the Elizabeth Taylor of her generation, she admits, "I don't know what they mean when they say that." She is told that it meant her personal life has over-

'GOODBYE/ A2-6



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Beauty by Belo

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

WHAT makes Dr. Vicki Belo so successful, sweet and generous?

"It may be the fact that I was an adopted child and had two sets of loving parents," says the drop-dead gorgeous purveyor of weight reduction and cosmetic surgery. "This probably made me very strong-willed and had such a positive effect on my life."

Vicki owns six beauty centers—in Alabang, Rustan's Makati, Medical Plaza in Legaspi Village, Greenhills, and Tektite Towers (call Vangie 09189405607 for free consultation).

"My two moms were sisters in the Cancio clan," Vicki relates. "My adoptive parents had no children so I was raised by them. I just lost my adoptive dad: [Enrique Belo] last December and I miss him big-time.

"When I was 3, he made up this story which I still remember. He told me of this girl named Veronica. She was adopted and was a special princess because of this. She could travel the world and was generous to her loyal subjects. She received the gift of God to be a doctor. And was very pretty and lovable.

"At age 6, I remember telling my dad that I wished I was adopted, too, like Veronica. Call it reverse psychology but it worked. It was then that my dad said that, indeed, I was adopted.

"I was an only child and I wasn't spoiled," continues Vicki as she changes into a purple gown by Goullee Gorospe. "In fact, I remember that every Christmas, my dad would have me draw money from my savings to buy gifts for the children who lived in the farm our family owned. It was instilled in me at an early age to share our blessings with the less fortunate."

We asked her why her, uhm, own breasts are big. "When you have a liposuction procedure," she replies without batting an eyelash, "the remaining fat cells usually go to your chest area. But [women] get pregnant. So much for the body sculpting I do to them."

Some of the country's big stars have trusted their bodies and faces to the good doctor. "Lorna Tolentino had liposuction while her husband Rudy Fernandez had facials. Zsa Zsa Padilla had mesolipo which is a non-surgical procedure where she was injected with fat-dissolving medicine. Joyce Jimenez had lipo light where heat is applied to your fat areas.

"Richard Gomez and Joey Marquez love the Obagi facials. Troy Montero goes for the body scrub and Albert martinez has had botox injections."

The future, according to Dr. Vicky, is the thread face. It involves no cutting of facial skin and its healing time is much quicker than a traditional face-lift.

"I have been doing this procedure for three years now and Americans have been doing it for three months only," she says. "That's why I was invited to speak on this Russian-invented procedure. I said that the Philippines could be the cosmetic surgery capital of the world."

She recently went to the US to be a special keynote speaker before the American Society of Dermatological Surgery.

Styled and directed by LARRY LEVISTE
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ETC		Dateline		Star Search		Meet My Folks		NBC Nightly News	What I Like About You	The O.C.		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	For Love Or Money		Nip/ Tuck		Dateline	
Cinema One				Minsan Pa Kahit Konting Pagngiti 2				'Til There Was You				Ayos Lang Pare Ko				Sanggano			
Studio 23								Nginig: The Hidden Files				Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	The Bachelor		
AXN			Cruel And Unusual				Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	WRC 2005: Monte Carlo		The Amazing Race		Fear Factor		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		Record Setters		The Amazing Race	
Star World		The Apprentice				Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Road Trip		The Simpsons	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		The X-Files/ Parkinson		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart, Global Ed	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News		World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart, Global Ed	Global Challenges		Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Innovation		Samsung Best Of The Week		Wild Horizons	Wild Orphans	Built For The Kill		Killer Leopards				Build For The Kill		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports	TV Shopping		Danish Open '04 Final Mxd Dbls		KOTV Classics		NBA Game: Orlando @ Washington					NBA Jam Local	NBA TV Daily	NBA Game Golden State @ L.A. Clippers					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America W/ Mario Batali	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Les Miserables				Planet Parent	You're Invited
HBO		Little Giants (3:10 PM)				Fugitive's Run			The Adventures Of Pluto Nash (6:25 PM)			Eraser				Lara Croft: Tomb Raider The Cradle Of Life			Live From Baghdad (11:45PM)
Star Movies		Rapid Fire (3:10 PM)			Holy Man (4:45 PM)				Bruce Almighty (6:45 PM)				Opening Night	The Prophecy			Corto Maltese		
Cartoon Network	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Megas XLR	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Wild Force	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Samurai Jack	Justice League
ESPN				Atlantic Coast Conf. Maryland vs Duke				AFC C'ship Game Patriots vs Steelers						Big 10 Conf Basketball- Indiana vs. Iowa				Asian Tour Caltex Masters Day4	
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Viva S Club	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/ Phil Of The Future				Lizzie McGuire	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				Cop & 1/2			Deconstructing Sarah (5:45 PM)			Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast				American Pie The Wedding			Dolores Claiborne		
Hallmark Channel		Five Days To Midnight				Audrey's Rain				Robin Cook's Acceptable Risk				Pawsong			A Place Called Home		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Monster Garage		Rides		Extreme Engineering		Hour Asia				Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	Wildboyz	The Assistant	MTV Jams	Non-Stop Hits		Room Raiders	PunkD	MTV Harana	Newlyweds	World Chart Express	Pimp My Ride	MTV Ask7 Shots		VH1 Hits! Video Collection	
Sports Plus	Acc Basketball Nth Carolina @ Maryland					This Is The PGA Tour		Davis Cup '04 Highlights			World Poker Tour Ep.3 Aruba	Raceworld		Get A Grip	Slipstream		Bob Hope Chrysler Classic 4th Round		
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dias	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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A calling card for the future of indie cinema

REVIEW

By Gibbs Cadiz

IN HIS review of independent director Cris Pablo's first movie, "Duda," shown last year, the INQUIRER's Constantino Tejero lauded the film for its "stylish technique that's very Wong Kar-wai, an exciting presentation of story, and non-professional actors who render involving performances."

The patina of arthouse class suggested by the association with Wong Kar-wai may have been lost on ordinary moviegoers, many of whom were lured to the cinema only by the movie's promise of gay carnality. But the formula itself seemed to work.

"Duda" turned out to be a blockbuster, attracting long lines of moviegoers during its extended SM Megamall run (this was before SM was struck by heavenly light on its way to the bank and banned R-rated films), and presumably earning enough for its producers to come up with a follow-up project less than a year later.

Same recipe

Pablo's second feature, "Bathhouse," opened last week on an exclusive run at Robinsons Galleria. In many ways, it reprises its predecessor's recipe, down to its two cult actors, Andoy Ranay and Rey Pumaloy.

Repetition may be fatal to sophomore efforts, but in "Bathhouse" it achieves a deepening, ripening effect. The movie succeeds on its own modest terms, and makes for a persuasive calling card for the future of Philippine indie cinema.

Shot on digital video format with the barest of budgets, "Bathhouse" often has the look and feel of an ersatz garage project. Color, sound and lighting fluctuate at intervals, the editing is graceless and perfunctory, and some shots are even pixelated.

Blown up on the big screen, the movie's technical limitations are glaringly apparent, and it may take moviegoers a while to warm up to the rough, stammering nature of the format.

But "Bathhouse's" virtues make up for its technical flaws. The Wong Kar-wai touch, for starters, is again apparent in the gauzy images set against a slyly purring ambient soundtrack and fast- or slow-motion camerawork. In many other movies this may come off less as an organic gesture and more an effect, but in "Bathhouse" it finds its natural groove.

The notion of urban (if Third World in this case) anomie expressed through hazy, neon-lit images of longing and melancholy is a signature Wong aesthetic. Yet transposed to a story about young, modern Manila gays, creatures living in the fringes and shadows of a fastidiously pious society and scrounging for their own erotic space in a landscape of banal everyday repression, the concept achieves a particularly poignant, bittersweet quality.

Nothing new

"Bathhouse's" coming-of-age story is nothing new, but its dramatic arc remains affecting. Rico, a young boy of 20 (played with great sensitivity by a real find named Ray-An Dulay), slowly awakens to his gayness and longs to make a connection with his peers.

His initial forays into eyeballs lead him nowhere, until he gets invited to Klub Hombre—a private bar for straight-acting gay men who come for their quickies in the anonymous comfort of darkness.

The guy who invited him, Chris (Jet Alcantara), is a gorgeous but jaded hunk who has conflated all hopes for love and emotional connection with his nightly descent into the bar's orgy lair. "Lust has no face, only bodies," he tells Rico, to fend off the boy's instant affection for him.

But Rico refuses to believe that love is not possible in such a desperate place, and proceeds to learn the hard way how social invisibility often renders bright-eyed gay men like himself embittered and lost—but also wiser, more purposeful in the end.

Rico and Chris' alternating stories are intertwined ingeniously. Their voiceover narrations overlap and bleed into each other, so that you may end up momentarily confused as to who is speaking.

Only in the end do you get the point, that Chris' long-ago loss of innocence prefigures Rico's, and their stories—one lonely soul's search for love is the same as another's, and the story of humanity, whether gay or straight, is that common, fundamental yearning for connection—add up to a full circle.

It's a device used most prominently by Terrence Malick in "The Thin Red Line," where he deliberately obscured all distinctions in his actors' voiceovers to universalize the insights and traumas of men at war.

Lovely scene

Apart from its rather high-concept structure, the movie unfolds unpretentiously. It speaks of Pablo's sensibility that he refuses to milk the material of its latent emotionalism, as so many mainstream Pinoy movies and TV dramas are wont to do.

Rico's coming out to his family is swift and raw, and their reconciliation even shorter, done over dinner with spare dialogue and no music, punctuated only by laughs after an awkward silence. It's a lovely scene.

Another standout moment has Rico going back to Chris and breaking into song, finally tearing down the latter's walls and making him cry. It's a risky setup, rife with hokey contrivance, but the actors pull it off.

Dulay, from all angles an ordinary-looking fellow, is a remarkable newcomer, literally blooming before your eyes as he soars and plunges on a tempestuous ride to self-discovery. He joins Rebecca Lusterio of "Panaghoy sa Suba" as bright new lights in Philippine cinema.

Strong performances are also offered by Alcantara who's a smoldering presence, Pumaloy, John Lapuz and a very funny Ranay. The rest of the non-professional cast do their jobs with natural verve.

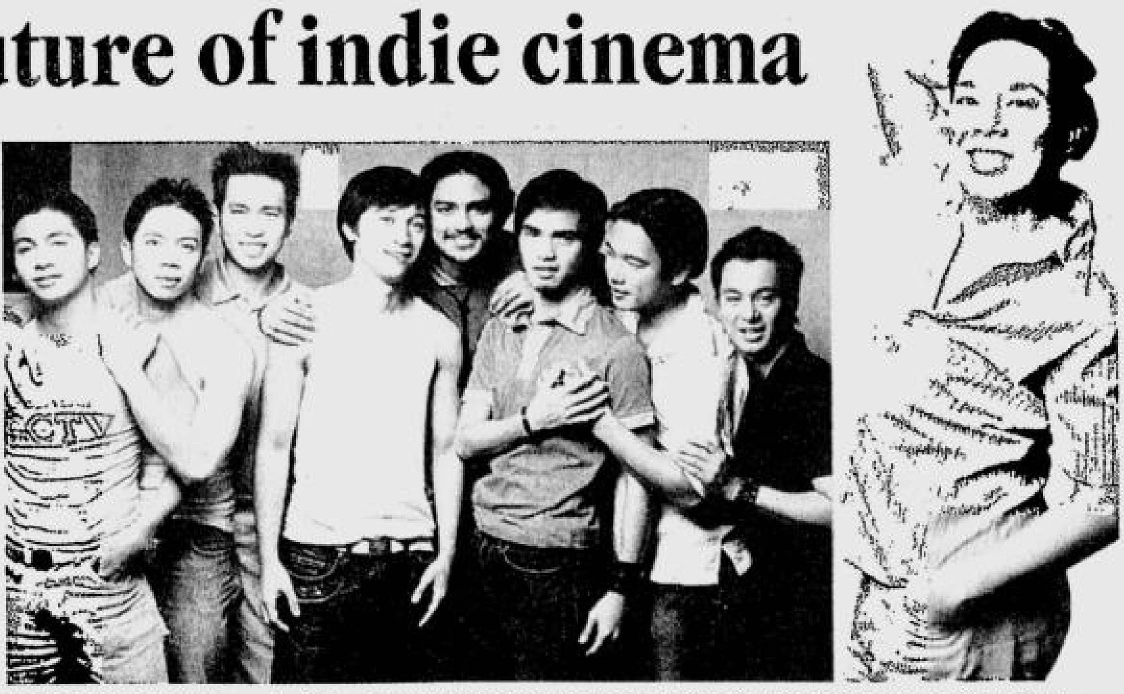
Simple and sincere

Pablo also wrote the script, and while it has its infirmities (you never know what Chris does for a living, for instance), the movie works by speaking simply, truthfully, without playing for sympathy or cheap righteousness. Sincerity, not earnestness, is its great virtue.

This is the kind of movie Jose Javier Reyes would have made under mainstream conditions—with better lighting, of course.

But it's true indie moviemaking, and if the promise that the likes of "Bathhouse" holds for local cinema means fresher stories, more transgressive approaches and new twists to hackneyed themes—by all means let's have more of it.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



THE CAST OF "Bathhouse," with lead stars Ray-An Dulay and Jet Alcantara (fourth and fifth from left), and John Lapuz (right)

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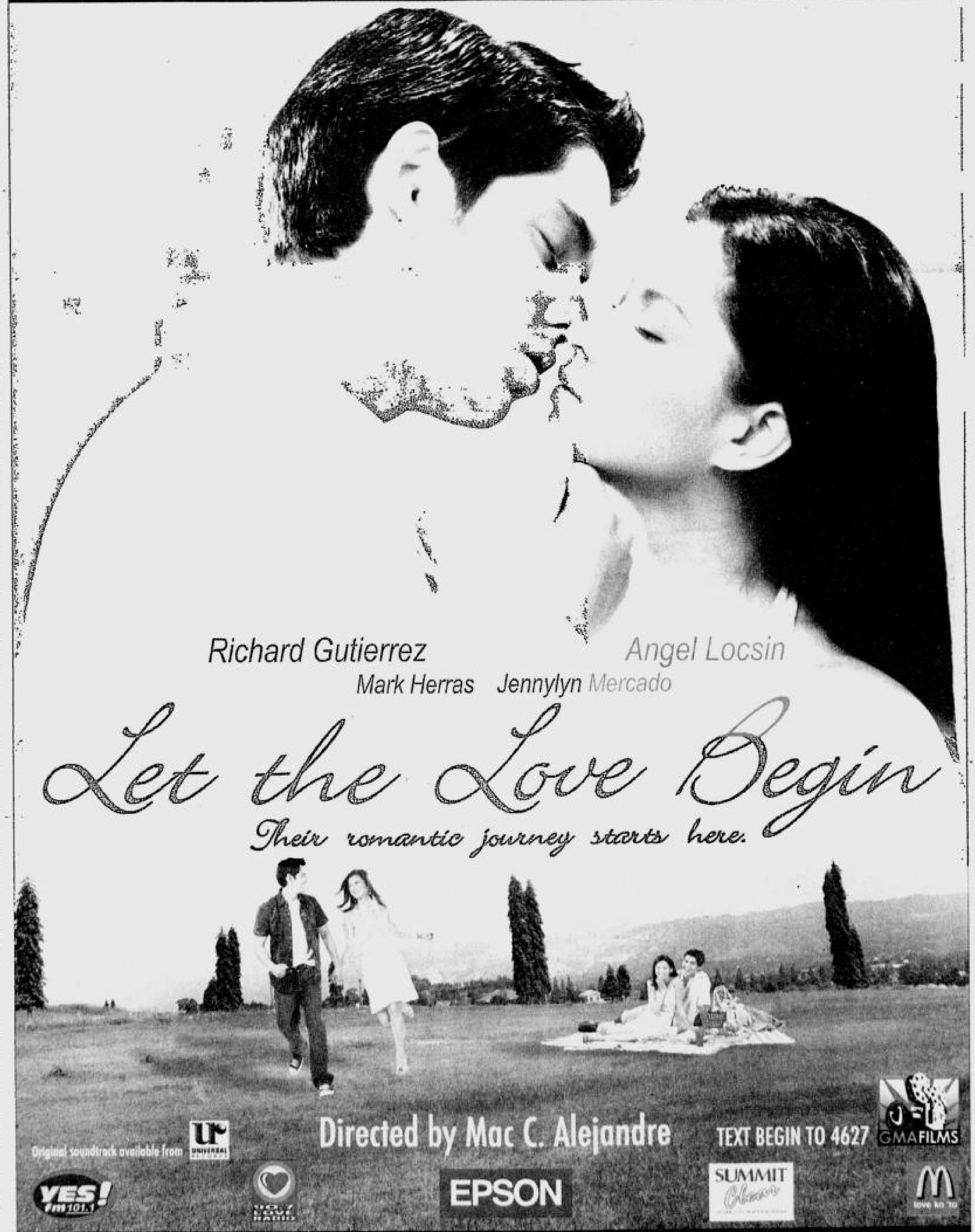

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Second and third chances

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SHOW biz fans are generous with their praise when their favorite stars do well, but they can be really mean and unforgiving when their idols stumble and reveal that they have feet of sullen clay.

Of late, a number of entertainment luminaries have been stumbling in a major way, so their careers have quickly gone from hot to—not.

OK, they're in deep freeze now, but is there any hope for them in the future? Can the members of the local show biz audience learn to be forgiving, and give their fallen idols a second chance?

Take **Jolo Revilla.** The teen TV actor is now a very young dad, thus effectively contradicting his youthful image. Will his erstwhile fans give him a chance to recover?

Ditto for female starlets who are single moms now and eager to make a comeback in show business—of course, no longer as the teen faves they once were, but with a more young-adult projection.

And what about **Mark Anthony Fernandez,** whose stellar career has been sidelined by the many months he's spent in a drug rehabilitation facility? Now that he's about to leave rehab, will he be given another opportunity to act in films? His well-connected dad, **Rudy Fernandez,** sure hopes so, and can be expected to do what he can to make that happen.

And what about *third* chances? **Willie Revillame** has flubbed two opportunities to make it big as a TV host, and is now being given a third opportunity to host a noontime program on ABS-CBN, this time a game show. Will TV fans still want to welcome him into their living rooms, or will it be a case of twice bitten, thrice shy?

In all these instances, we hope that the TV-film audience's answer will be in the affirmative. After all, *everybody's* made mistakes *and* been forgiven, so why should stars be treated differently? Have a heart—again and again!

Feedback

FROM **Ever Ferriol** of Calamba City: "Many people rail against threats to our freedom, but oppression does not only mean political tyranny. Oppression also happens when viewers are continually fed morbid and scandalous behavior, and when it is presented as normative, standard, and even desirable.

"Are we free when we continually patronize this kind of entertainment? It's true: Television, which supposedly informs, entertains and educates, is now making viewers confused, ignorant and restless.

"TV is supposed to be a means of information, so it has an important social function. It can be a significant instrument for freedom, in the sense that it transmits the truth. But, is it really helping viewers to be free by giving them reliable and adequate information?

"The youth is the hope of the nation, but in what manner are we educating them? In sensuality? In useless programs that diminish human dignity?

"We love everyone's freedom, so we demand responsibility. May those in media be instruments of freedom by informing the people well, so they can form

SECOND/ A2-6

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1 ELEKTRA	1 WHITE NOISE	1 ELEKTRA	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 MEET THE FOCKERS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15, 11:45	1 ELEKTRA
2 MEET THE FOCKERS	2 ELEKTRA	2 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 ELEKTRA 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15	2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE	3 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MEET THE FOCKERS [illegible] 5:55, 8:25, 10:55	3 SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2
4 OCEAN'S 12	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE	4 OCEAN'S 12	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 1:30, 2:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 KUNG FU HUSTLE		5 KUNG FU HUSTLE	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 OCEAN'S 12 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00	5
		6 ELEKTRA		
		7 WHITE NOISE		

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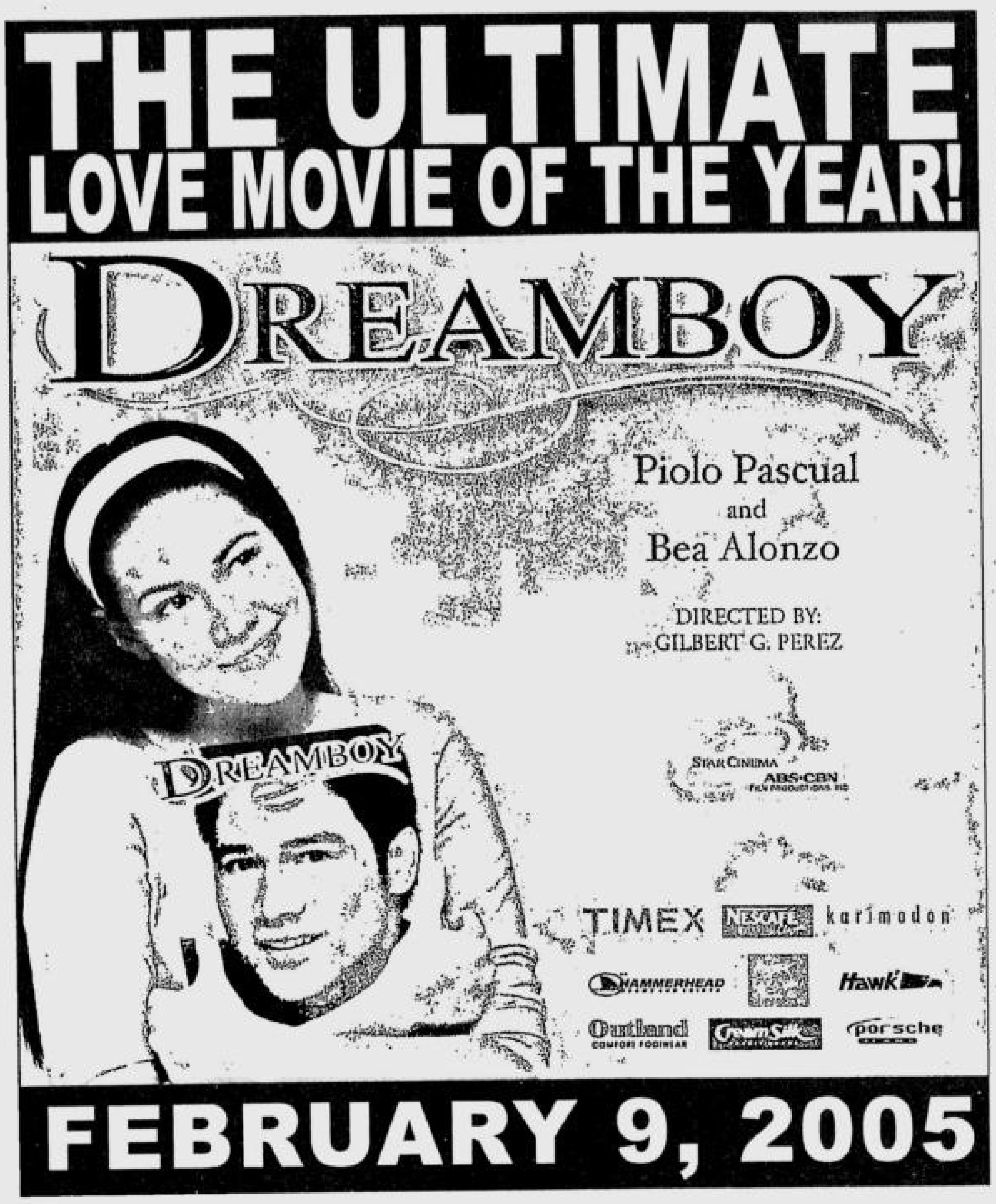
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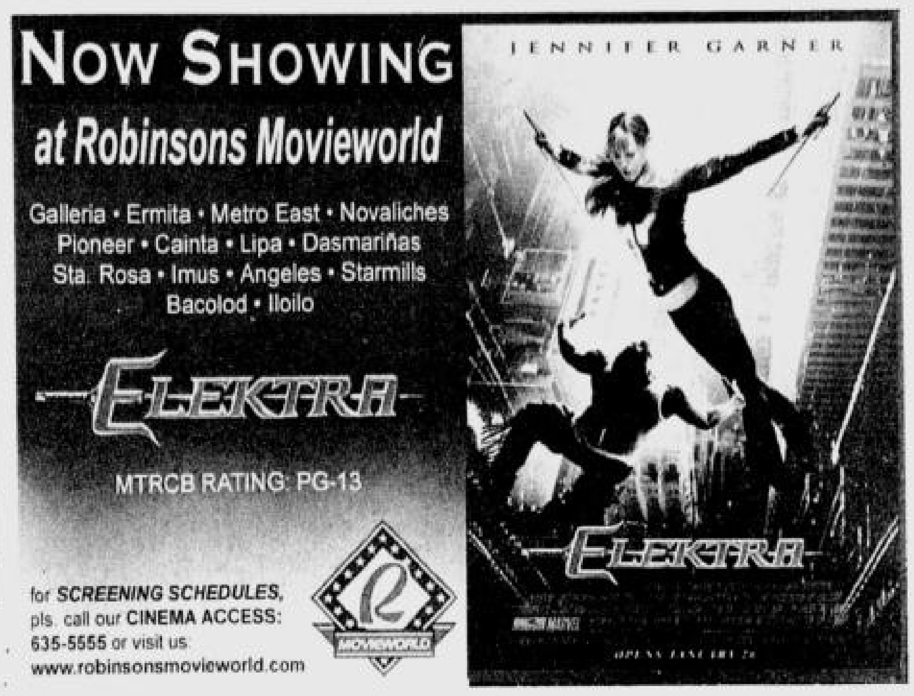
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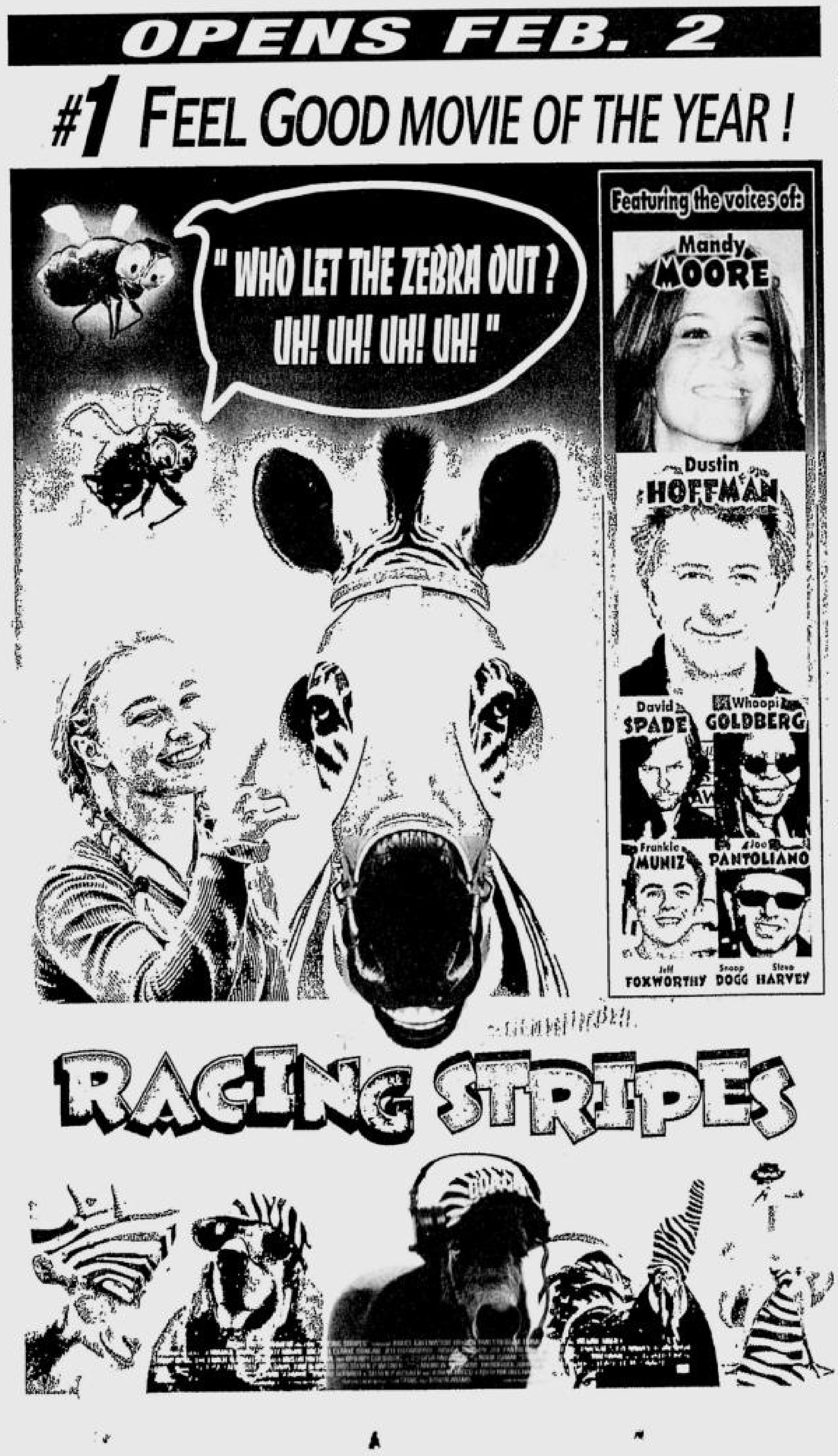
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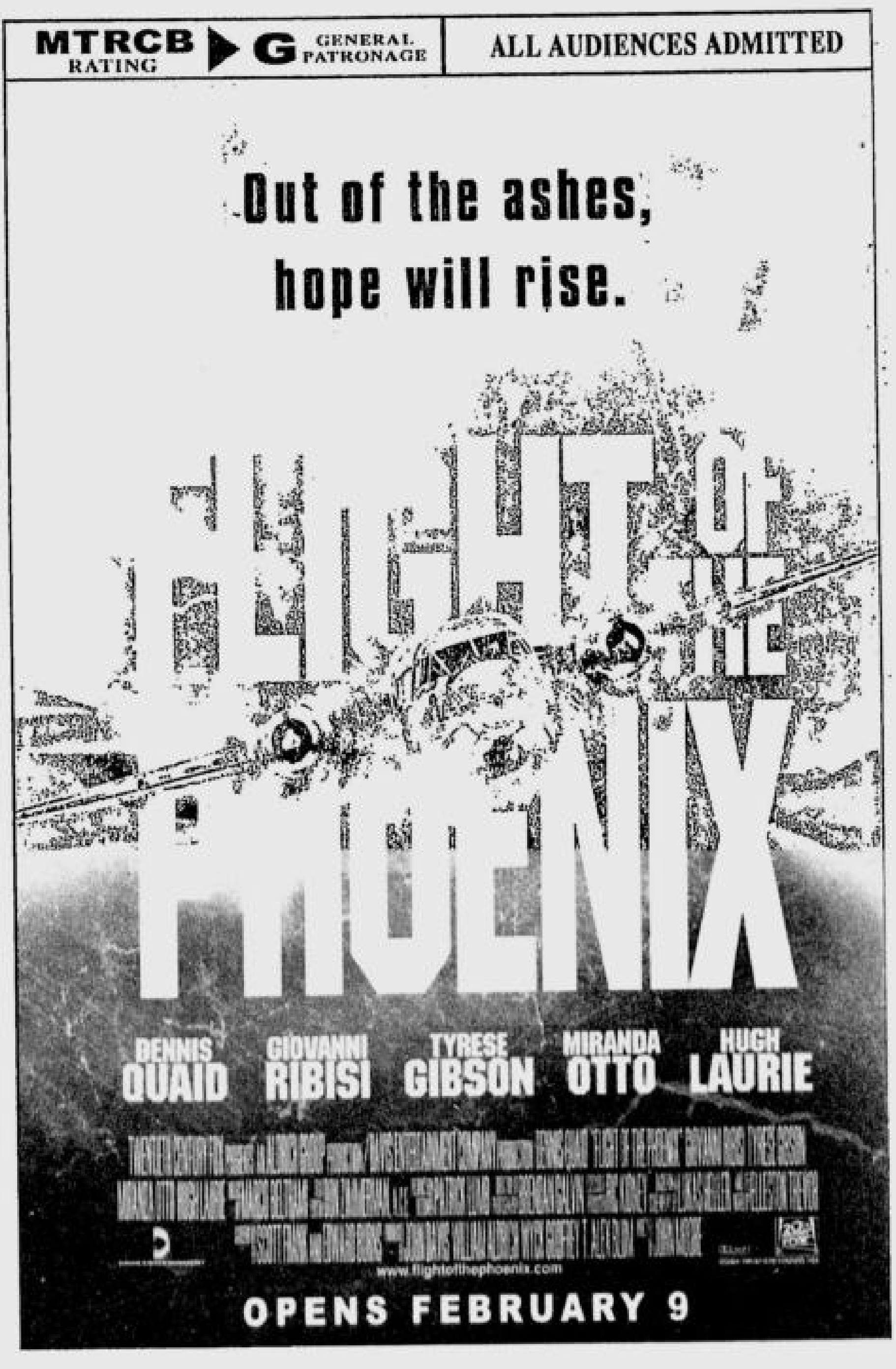
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The PHANTOM of the OPERA

PROFESSIONAL. "She was never late, was always prepared," says Gere of Lopez.

'Goodbye to the whole . . .

From page A2-1

shadowed her career. The star agrees: "I definitely have felt that. It's hurtful and insulting."

She does try hard to take things with a healthy dose of humor, like today—fielding questions with cheerful banter. Work is an outlet for frustrations, too. Says Ben Affleck's famous ex-girlfriend: "I've always been able to hide in my work when things are not going so great."

(Richard Gere, who made the hit "Shall We Dance?" with Lopez at the height of the sensational "Bennifer" split, would tell us later how his co-star turned to work as solace, and how she stayed very professional throughout the shoot. In an interview right after Lopez, Gere told INQUIRER Entertainment: "You could see clearly that this young woman was going through a lot of stuff but she never brought that to the set, never made it an issue, was

'GOODBYE/ A2-7

Second and third chances

From page A2-4

good opinions; by offering responsible entertainment, and by helping form the youth into better persons."

'Phantom of the Opera'

THE HIT musical, "Phantom of the Opera," is now a movie, and it's opening in town on Feb. 9. But you can see it earlier: For every purchase of its soundtrack at participating stores (Astroplus Podium, Astrovision Megamall, Tower Records Megamall and Shangri-la, Odyssey XI. Megamall and Odyssey Robinsons Galleria), you win two free tickets to the film's advanced screening at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8.

"Phantom" is directed by **Joel Schumacher** and topbills **Gerald Butler** and **Emmy Rossum**. The cast also includes **Minnie Driver** and **Miranda Richardson**.

'The Way We Were'

RICO J. Puno and **Basil Valdez** perform their greatest hits in the double CD release, "The Way We Were," the live recording of their Araneta Coliseum concert last October.

Basil performs "Nais Ko," "Lift Up Your Hands," "Ngayon at Kailan Man," "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," "Paano Bang Mangarap" and "Ngayon," and Rico J. interprets "Damdamin," "Ganyan Pala ang Magmahal," "Bawal na Pag-ibig," "Together Forever," "May Bukas Pa," "MacArthur Park," and the title track.

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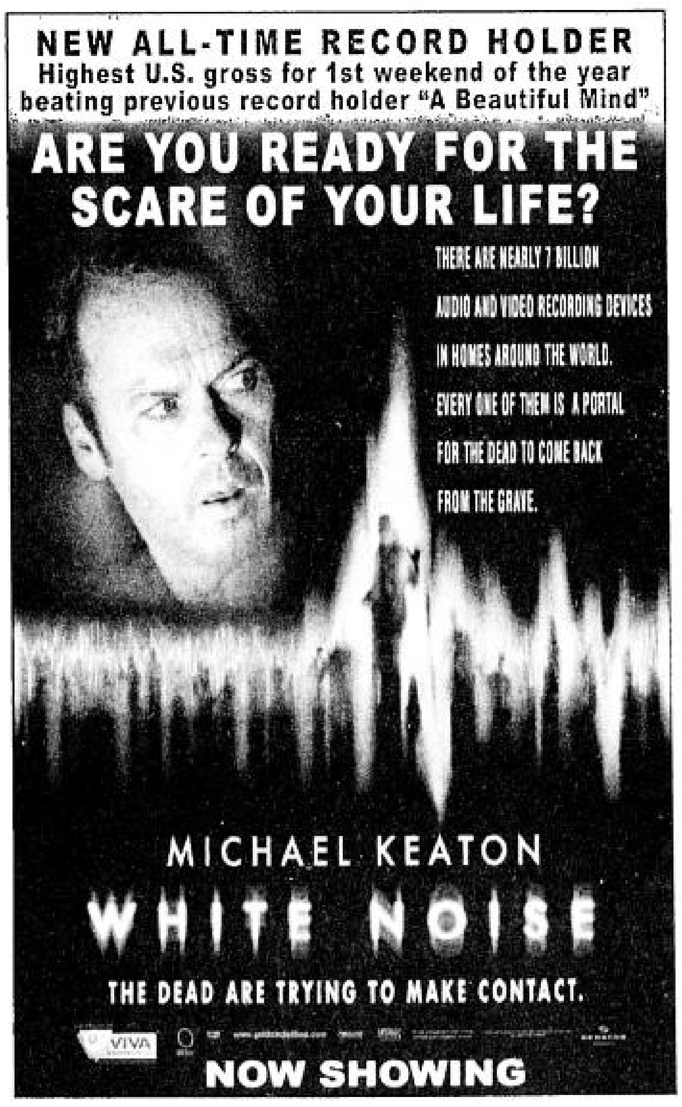
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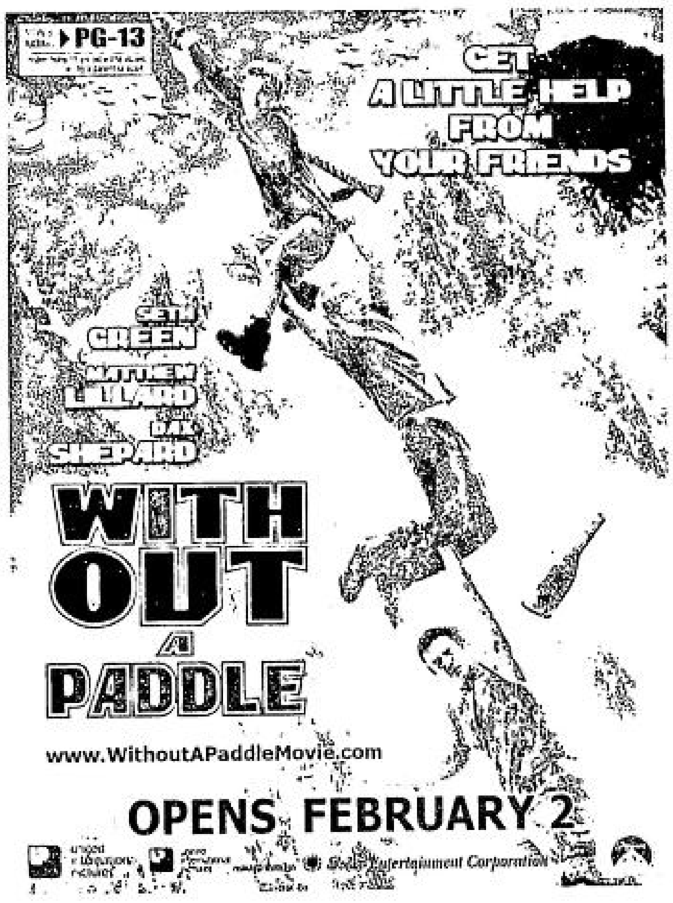
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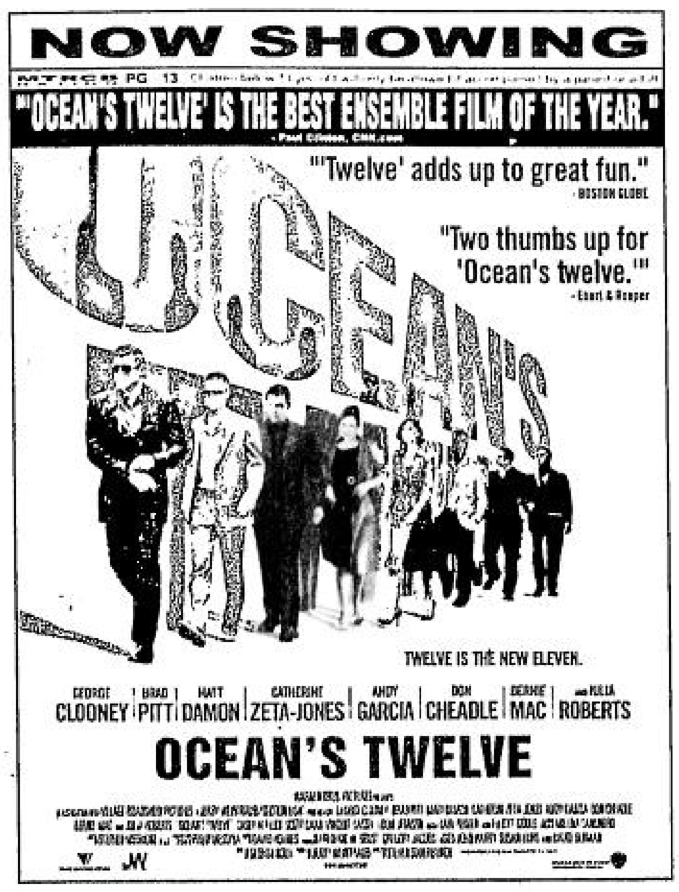
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'Goodbye . . .

From page A2-6

never late, was always prepared.")

"Shall We Dance?," an English language remake of the exquisite 1996 Japanese film ("*Dansu Wo Shimasko Ka*"), is Lopez's first hit film after her back-to-back "Bennifer" bombs, the infamous "Gigli" and "Jersey Girl."

SALSA LADY. "You could see that this young woman was going through a lot of stuff but she never brought that to the set," says Gere.

Salsa in her blood

On ballroom dancing with Gere in this romantic comedy, the star, whose "Waiting For Tonight" was named 2000 MTV Music Award's best dance video, reveals: "I had never tried ballroom dancing before. Once I started rehearsing, it was really difficult, technical, very specific. Richard said he had a hard time, too. But working with [him] was great."

Admitting that she has salsa in her blood, being Puerto Rican, she says: "I think we did okay."

Dancing legends Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse get more than an "okay" rating from the entertainer who auditioned for the "Evita" role that went to Madonna. She explains: "When you're a dancer, you basically watch every dance movie that ever existed. I saw a lot of Fred Astaire movies and I loved Cyd Charisse. How easy they made it look!"

Reporters being reporters, we find a way to probe Lopez about her multi-millionaire husband Number Three, Marc Anthony, himself a pop superstar. How did Marc dance himself into her heart?

"Oh God," Lopez laughs. "Let's discuss it in general terms. What sweeps me off my feet? Sincerity and passion. I respond to people who stand for something."

The 35-year-old star has been quoted as saying, "I sooo want to be pregnant." Marrying Marc Anthony, she became an instant stepmom to his three kids, the youngest two being the product of his union with Dayanara Torres, former Miss Universe who once went steady with Aga Muhlach.

"You learn a lot from being around children," she comments. "Children help you put things in perspective; they are a reality check."

She recently found time to appear as herself on the TV series "Will & Grace." She explains: "I think it's funny. I love making fun of myself."

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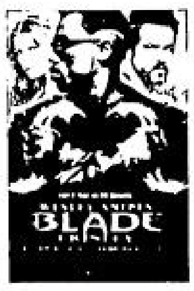

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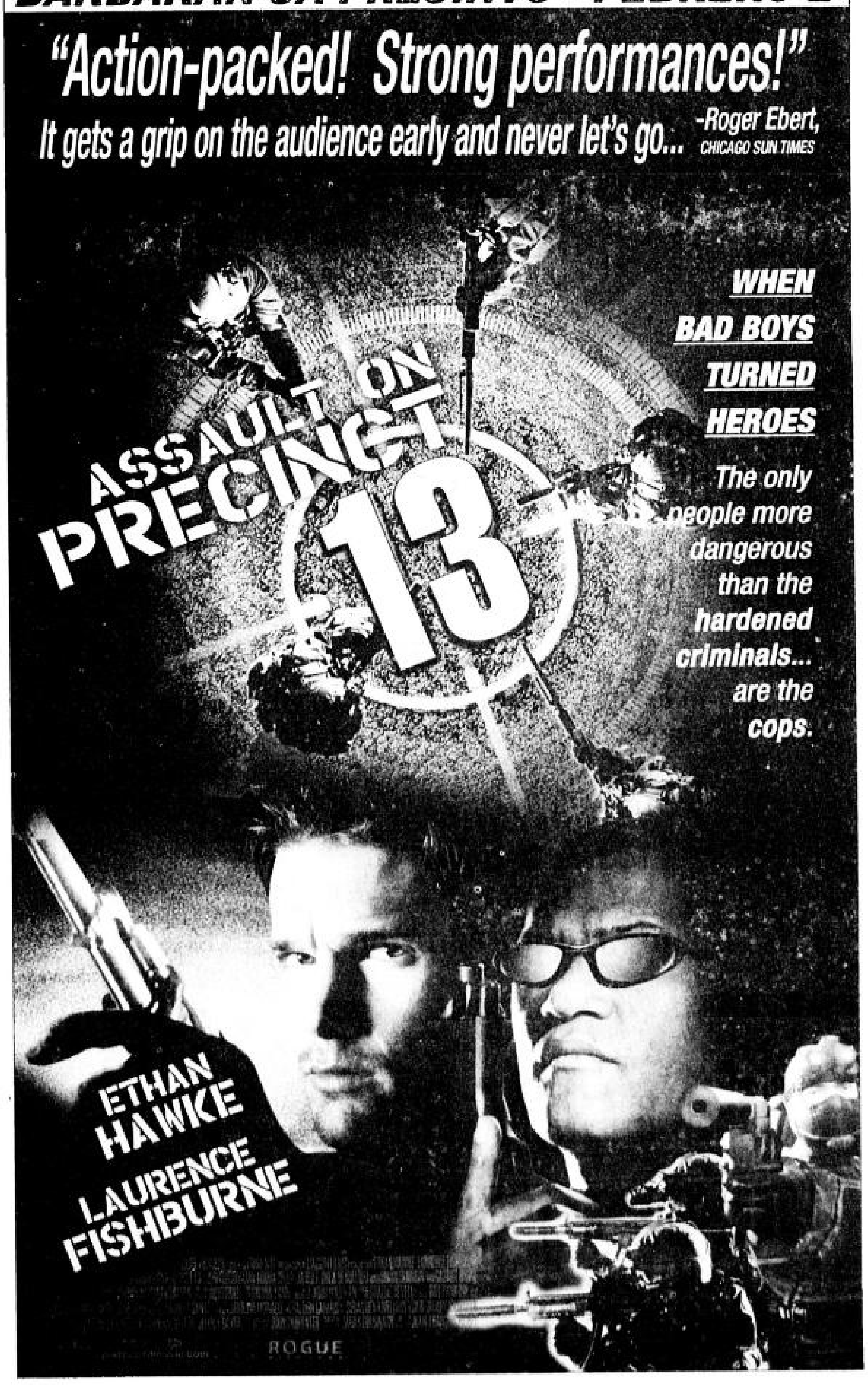

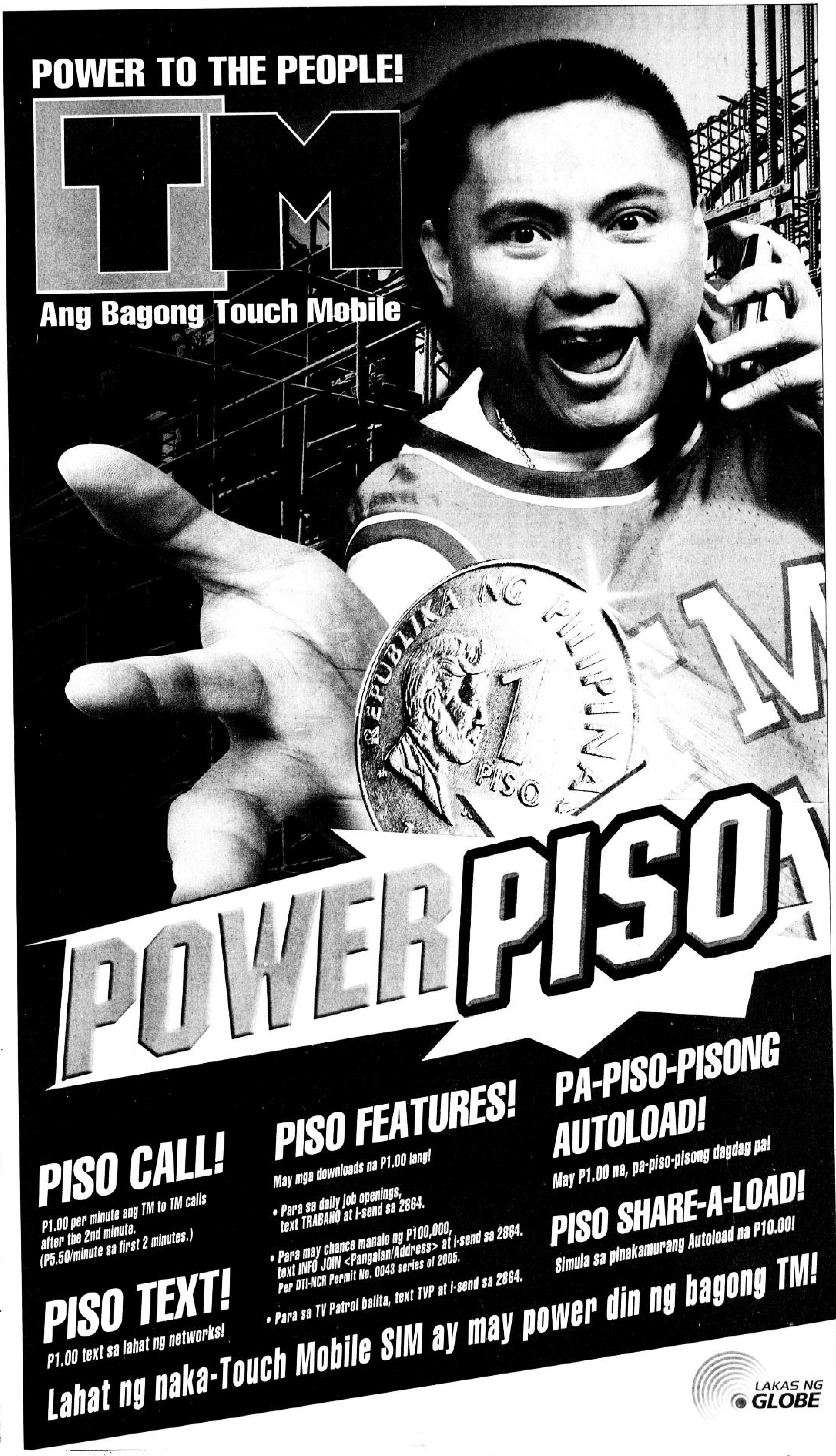

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Tale of three entrepreneurs

She sells shells from the sea shores (and earns dollars)

PUERTO GALERA, Oriental Mindoro—There can be good money after a typhoon.

Jocelyn "Lyn" Arevalo learned this, found this out and proved it with the jewelry she manually makes out of washed away and dead seashells. Arevalo recounts that in April 2000, she made something for herself—the first pair of earrings from washed away seashells—and wore it at a Yacht Club assembly here. Most of the club's members present were foreigners.

"I received positive comments and was motivated to venture into handmade shell jewelry," says Arevalo.

Her passion for the discovered craft and excitement that people would buy them glitteringly shows in her eyes.

She says the earrings she wore during that Yacht Club meeting were made in just one week and were gold-plated. Now, the gold is in-laid.

Business catch

"Unique classic shell jewelry, beautifully handmade shell jewelry set in 18-carat gold clam and sterling silver. All shells collected in an environment-friendly way from washed-up shells on beaches around the Philippine Islands," is the business catch, which is attached to every pair of earrings for sale, with Arevalo's cell phone number.

Aside from earrings, Arevalos' other products include shelled trays, bracelets and necklaces with prices ranging from P150 to P1,800.

"Our products do not have the same quality as those in malls where many are only for fashion and without inlay of pure gold," claims Arevalo.

Showing photos of similar products in a European magazine, she adds that their products are cheaper than 900 pounds (or $1,200 dollars) with 18-carat gold sold in Europe.

"We can make better and cheaper at $100 dollars," she says with confidence.

Though her business is just medium-sized, her products have been exported to Italy by a teacher who comes here every six months, Arevalo says.

AREVALO shows a pair of seashells earrings. she related that the the most difficult pair she did took her one year to find a match for one shell she wanted to work on.
PHOTOS BY DONNA T. VIROLA

SHE SELLS/ B2

Vietnamese entrepreneur no stranger to risk

By Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—Entrepreneur Thanh Nguyen, 40, is no stranger to risk.

In 1989, when Nguyen was 25 years old, he braved the ocean to escape communist persecution of South Vietnamese families that fought the Vietcong during the 1959-1975 Vietnam War.

To reach the Philippines from the seaport city of Nha Trang, the capital of Phu Kanh, a southeastern province of Vietnam, Nguyen,

VIETNAMESE/ B2

A BIT of Vietnam finds way into Tarlac
RUSSELL ARADOR

Igorot embarks on new soil-less farm technique

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Ibaloi farmer Cesar Abalos has accepted globalization as a given in today's agricultural industry.

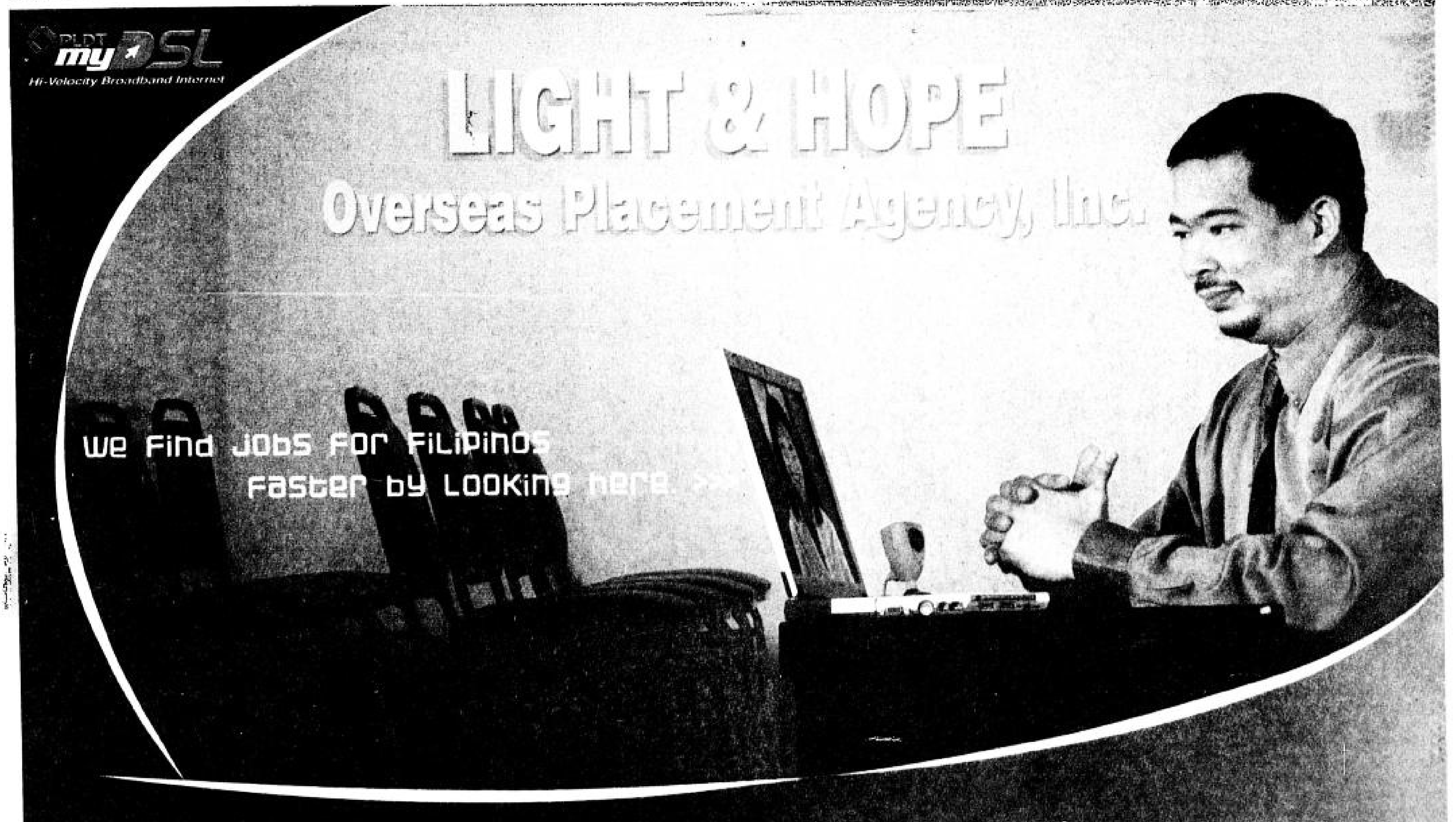
But as imported, if not smuggled, vegetables swamp the local market and threaten to kill the multimillion-peso local vegetable industry, Abalos has not given up on farming.

Like other Igorot farmers, who for decades have been producing 80 percent of the country's cabbage, potatoes, carrots and other temperate vegetables, Abalos is hardworking and industrious.

"But hard work and industry alone are not enough for us to compete in a globalizing

IGOROT/ B2

A TECHNICIAN at Cesar Abalos Hydroponics Greenhouse in Trinidad filtrating coco peat
PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU



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PLDT

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Releasing group energy for decision-making at its best

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

ONLY recently, in the midst of calls for a Cabinet revamp, friends of the Administration pointed to the need for "creative tension" in Cabinet meetings. The same officials observed that there were "too many yes-men" in these meetings, leading to poorly thought out decisions.

Implicit in such remarks is the assumption that there are enough brains in her Cabinet, and even an abundance of great ideas waiting to be tapped—if only the President makes disagreement part of the process of arriving at the best possible moves for the country.

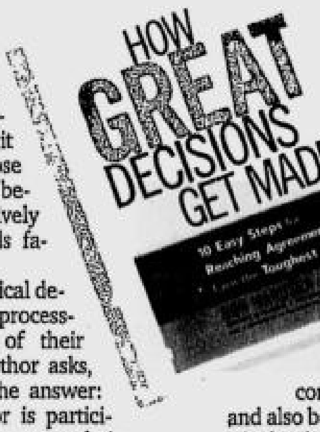
On the other side of the spectrum, however, during the watch of former President Cory Aquino, not too far off, the complaint then was that the Cabinet was wracked by divisions. Cabinet factions were veritable debating teams. And there was confusion about policies that kept changing.

Beyond the Palace and into corporate board and mancom (management committee) meetings, such sessions are either driven by a dominant leader, or left alone to drift away in a conflict-ridden process. The common result: Nothing much gets done.

Creative tension

Here's a book that looks closer at this problem, provides 10 steps to deal with it, and gives interesting accounts of how organizations came up with breakthrough ideas or brilliant moves—simply because creative energy is released by an approach that concentrates on "inspiring hope, not fear," and "seeking possibilities and not merely solving problems."

The book, titled "How Great Decisions Get Made," begins with this statement: "I no longer meet people who look forward to going to work meetings. Or public hearings. Or school board meetings... People will either over-participate or sit bored. Those who talk will become progressively louder." Sounds familiar?



"Why do typical decision-making processes fall short of their mark?" the author asks, and supplies the answer: "A prime factor is participants who try to prove their own individual points of view. They lock their groups into an "us-versus-them" dynamic. The "victors" glory in their success, which is often short-lived. The "losers" look for ways to prove themselves right and frustrate implementation of the solution."

Thus, this consultant and facilitator of many Fortune 500 companies, cites the value of listening in meetings. "Listening is the most powerful process we have available. As we listen to each other, we move closer together ... We move off from our narrow positions...We become better thinkers, and also better colleagues."

The book devotes an interesting account of the "characters" that attend our meetings—like the "Gladiator," the "Boss," the "Debater," the "Majority Ruler," the "Briber," and the "Blackmailer."

Personality types

Read the descriptive paragraph for each type in the book, and you can surely spot these personality types in your next meeting.

One word, though, permeates every chapter in the book: "Hope." The book describes it as the "animating and unifying spirit," sadly noting that many meetings proceed from negative approaches—like fear, undue control, confrontation, upmanship, etc.

"Connect with your deepest hopes," the author adds, because when every member expresses hopes for the organization, he or she becomes personal, and forgets about fear and competition."

In fact, the book provides many guidelines on how to release the creative energy of those in meetings. The author reveals that any meeting will instantly and dramatically change the mood "when you ask participants to write their fondest hopes for themselves and for the company."

With that underlying theme, everything falls into place. So, when the author describes every item of the "10 easy steps for reaching agreement on even the toughest issues," the entire book is dotted by a side bar titled "Be an agent of hope." This highlights the discussions in every chapter.

Author Maruska may not be saying something new, and I agree, because "brainstorming sessions," SWOT analyses, creative strategy sessions have been with us for decades.

The difference though is that the book lays down every step, provides illustrations on success cases, and generously crafts charts that illuminate the entire process.

The 10 easy steps for great decision making serve as the "clothesline" where the author hangs every gem, thought, strategy and success stories.

After reading the book, including "how-tos" after every chapter, you cannot wait till you meet your team—big or small—and try out this fail-safe process of releasing the creative energy of any group in a great moment of decision making. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Tale of three entrepreneurs

She sells shells from the sea shores

From page B1

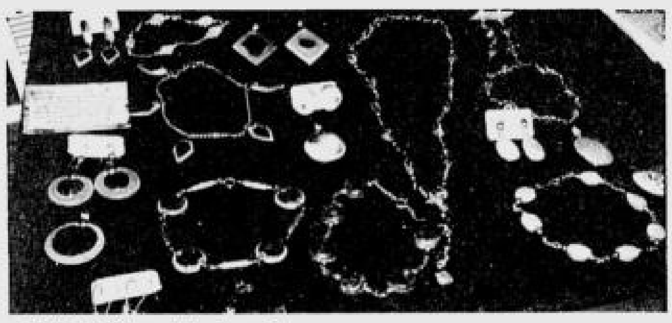
The teacher's friends from different nationalities love it too, she adds. Peak season for the business is December until February, notes Arevalo.

Partnership

Her partner, Tony Parkinsons, a British national and an environmental consultant, complements her work with cutting, drilling and gluing.

"I am the quality control officer," he says with a smile during the showcase of the products at the Sandbar Restaurant in summer last year, during the dryrun for the Strong Republic Nautical Highway, which was attended by local tourists using the SRNH.

Parkinsons was hired by former president Ferdinand Marcos during the martial law regime to work on an environmental project in Calauit, Palawan, then for a tamaraw conservation project in Occidental Mindoro. Arevalo used to display her products in town in a friend's rattan house, across the Puerto Galera Central Elementary School.


AREVALO'S jewelries for sale

Less than a year ago, they built a native house by the beach with an underground workshop area and personally landscaped garden.

Arevalo makes the shells in her bedroom while Parkinsons stays downstairs.

She added small birds, which are bountiful in their place. Since the two now travel less, they get supplied shells.

Four years ago, Arevalo hid a bucket of shells in their yacht and Parkinsons wanted to throw it away because he thought it was junk and just added weight to the yacht. "But I proceeded, saying that I'd be popular on this one day," says Arevalo.

She stresses that skill in matching the shells is needed in making her products.

"It takes a lot of patience because shells crack and it's difficult to find similar ones," Parkinsons adds.

Making a simple pair of earrings can take a minimum of four hours: cutting, shaping, gluing, inlaying of gold and the final furnishing cut.

"I get so engrossed in making earrings that sometimes, I forget to cook and we just eat sandwiches. After long hours of concentrated work, we get cross-eyed when we see each other," Arevalo smilingly jokes.

Parkinsons says he studies books on live shells.

"Most are poisonous, especially cone shells. Shells predate on one another; they have a terrible life. All together, shells are fascinating. It's more than just making the jewelry," says Parkinsons. "What matters in this business is that it is a learning process and so you do it very slowly," he advises.

Arevalo showed this correspondent that everywhere in their house, even in the toilet, are shells.

Her comb also has shells glued on it. "I like shells, they are beautiful."

Her passion for shells is recognized by her friends that they already give her shell books for gifts instead of clothes. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Igorot embarks on soil-less ...

From page B1

economy," says the 43-year-old farmer. "We also have to learn some technologies that other countries employ to produce quality vegetables, and I'm confident we can succeed."

With such optimism, Abalos, with the help of a technician and contractual workers, redesigned his 2,000-square meter greenhouse last October. He raised the greenhouse's roof and added more soil on the ground, which he covered with plastic sheets because he would not use the ground to grow vegetables.

Instead of plots, he and his workers arranged in rows black plastic bags stuffed with coco peat (ground and decomposed coconut husks) and rice hull. Each row of the plant bags were installed with a one-fourth-inch diameter plastic water pipe attached to a bigger half-inch diameter pipe connected to an elevated water tank.

The calibrated small water pipe in each row of plastic bags has a tiny hole for each plant bag. Water drips through the hole when a water valve is opened.

On Jan. 16-17, Abalos and his workers planted the last batch of his bell pepper seedlings, which they sowed in September, in more than 5,000 plant bags. A week earlier, they had planted another almost 6,000 seedlings.

To irrigate the bell pepper plants, someone will just have to open the valve.

"So you can be reading your newspaper and sipping your coffee while watering your plants," says Fred Langpaoen, a consultant who helped install the hydroponics irrigation facility in Abalos' greenhouse.

Hydroponics

Hydroponics or what Langpaoen calls "soil-less farming technology" has two variants. One is pure hydroponics, which, as they do in Israel and Japan, uses simply water to grow crops.

Under specially designed greenhouses and with the aid of electronic gadgets that measure the amount of fertilizer that vegetable crops need, pure hydroponics practitioners can practically grow crops in a desert or on top of a building using only water.

FRED Langpaoen showing gadget (electric conductivity meter) that measures fertilizer concentration to determine how much will be fed to plants via irrigation facility

"But what we can start and introduce to fellow Igorot farmers for now is semi-hydroponics," says Langpaoen.

He cites the use of non-soil elements such as coco peat or ground coconut fiber and rice hull with a specially designed irrigation facility as was installed in Abalos' greenhouse.

One comparative edge of the new technology is that it can minimize labor. Farmers can now give up their watering cans and hoes.

"From now on, I don't have to break my back with a pair of watering cans and I don't have to dig plots," says Abalos.

And since hydroponics is a kind of technology that requires precision in measuring the exact amount of fertilizer and water that plants need, Abalos has employed two lady agriculture graduates as regular staff.

At Abalos' hydroponics farm, every substance given to the plants are measured; thus, the need for highly skilled technicians.

A gadget called electric conductivity meter, which Langpaoen introduced, for instance, measures the concentration and volume of fertilizer that plants need.

So before the plants are fertilized, Abalos' staff, with the aid of testing and measuring gadgets, determine first the right amount of fertilizers before these are dissolved in plastic tanks connected to the irrigation facility. The dissolved fertilizers are transported to the plant bags through the irrigation facility.

Soil revitalizer

Abalos sought out another way of supplementing the hydroponics technology his consultant introduced.

After experimenting on the efficacy of what is called "soil revitalizer" on his previous cauliflower crops, Abalos seeks to use this substance, which, he says, enhances the growth of beneficial microorganisms in the soil.

Manufactured by a Japanese firm, the soil revitalizer is processed from various herbs and other organic matter. Just a gram of the granular substance is enough to enhance the beneficial microorganisms in the coco peat and rice hull in each of the plastic bags planted to bell pepper, says Abalos.

"With this soil revitalizer and the already fertile coco peat and rice hull, we can grow healthy and high quality bell peppers that can compete with, if are not better than, those imported," he says.

Under his hydroponics-installed greenhouse, Abalos targets to start harvesting his bell crops third week of February or 45 days after the seedlings were transplanted.

By the time the crops begin yielding fruits, he expects to continue harvesting weekly or once in two weeks until September before a new batch of seedlings are planted again.

His aim is to produce bell peppers the whole year round, regardless of weather. And he won't be selling his produce to the usual trading post here, which is practically controlled by middlemen, who, by manipulating prices, earn twice to 10 times more than farmers.

High-end market

Even before he sowed his seeds last September, Abalos already contacted what he calls a high-end client—a food processor in Manila who requires a certain quota a week.

Through his market research, he found out that food processors and fast food chains are forced to import because local farmers either cannot meet the required quality and volume or cannot sustain orders.

Local farmers also are always at the mercy of the changing climate. So during the typhoon season when farmers cannot produce vegetables, food processors and fast food chains had to import.

Taking a calculated risk, Abalos has thus invested almost a million pesos, some of which are loans, for his greenhouse and hydroponics irrigation facility.

He estimates that each of his 10,000 bell pepper plants can yield an average of four kilograms in six months or a total of 40,000 kg in six months or 1,666.67 kg weekly.

This projected volume from his 2,000-square meter greenhouse remains a miniscule of the four tons weekly requirement of the food processor. To meet the client's required volume in the future, Abalos and his consultant are thus looking for other farmers, whom they can organize and convince to adopt the hydroponics technology.

Through a negotiated fixed price with his client under an official term of contract, Abalos won't have to worry about fluctuating prices, which other Igorot farmers have to brace for when they market their crops at the trading post here.

Under a P45 to P50 a kg negotiated price with his client, for example, Abalos says he must not be tempted to sell his products to the open market when bell pepper shoots up to more than P100.

The negotiated price, Abalos says, would enable him to project and calculate earnings for the whole cropping season.

"It's time to do away with the *patsamba-tsamba* (based on luck) attitude of many farmers," says Abalos, who gave up a career in the Philippine National Police to pursue farming on the land he inherited from his parents.

At a time when government is apparently powerless in helping farmers cope with the threats of globalization, Abalos says he hopes his greenhouse can help as a "show window" for other farmers.

Vietnamese entrepreneur ...

From page B1

along with 70 others, crossed the South China Sea aboard a small, sputtering motorboat.

After more than a week at sea, the boat's engine conked out, stranding them in the middle of nowhere. To make matters worse, the boat was damaged in the course of their journey and was beginning to sink.

Fortunately, a group of Filipino fishermen spotted and rescued them.

"We were lucky the Filipino fishermen found us. If they did not, we would all have died," Nguyen says.

After their rescue, they were taken to Coron Island in northern Palawan, some 1,000 km from Nguyen's native city of Nha Trang. From Coron, the refugees were transferred to a camp in Palawan, where Nguyen would stay for seven years before he would be allowed to leave and embark on a fruitful entrepreneurial journey.

Dry goods store

Housed in a two-story apartment unit on Rizal Street in Tarlac City is the Mai Nguyen Vietnamese Store. Named after Nguyen's wife, whom he married in 1993 while they were in the refugee camp, the dry goods store sells on retail and wholesale basis a variety of items from women's clothes and children's wear to watches and jewelry.

It is living proof that Nguyen has come a long way from an asylum-seeker with a gloomy future.

The store is so popular—especially among teachers, not only in the city but also in Tarlac's 17 towns. It has a customer base of about 3,000 and manages to sell P20,000 worth of products daily.

"*Pero utang lahat* (But these are on credit)," Nguyen says.

What is the secret of Nguyen's success?

Hard work and a healthy dose of risk taking, he says.

Everything he needed to learn as a businessman, the risk-taking part particularly, he had learned while fleeing Vietnam.

"Death at sea was better than jail," he says.

Risks

He knew he could capitalize on his being used to taking great risks to succeed as an entrepreneur. After all, business would entail a lot less risks than conspiring to outwit the communist government of Vietnam.

So after being allowed to leave the refugee camp, he went to Metro Manila and promptly started selling sundry items like perfumes, sandals and undergarments. The goods came from Nguyen's aunt and were given on a consignment basis.

Nguyen's aunt, who played a significant role in his success as source of capital for his many future business ventures, had married a Filipino worker in Vietnam.

When the man's contract ended, she went back with him to the Philippines, where they prospered in the business of selling imported items from Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea and Vietnam.

For three months, Nguyen was an ambulant vendor in Metro Manila. But life was difficult, he says. The police were always after them and the 5 percent of what little they had earned. He decided to look for a better place.

A friend mentioned Tarlac and off the Nguyen couple went.

In Tarlac, the Nguyens rented a room for P1,000 a month. So that Nguyen could start his business immediately even without the benefit of a business permit, he peddled items "guerrilla style." He also set up shop under the wooden stall of a market vendor.

But the bulk of his sales during those early times was made by selling door-to-door and under a staggered payment scheme.

And to raise more capital he sought the help of his two brothers in the United States.

He also asked a refugee-friend to lend him money. The friend managed to scrape about P50,000, which Nguyen used to buy items that were not available in his aunt's shop.

In 1998, the Nguyens moved to the store's present site on Rizal Street. Most of the couple's customers are public school teachers who would pay him on "two-gives" and "four-gives" modes.

Nguyen knew it was hazardous business selling on credit. But he thought he was used to taking risks; besides, it was one way he could show his gratitude to the people who accepted him and the other boat people into their society.

Business flourishes

It was also in 1998, the year they finally had a store of their own, that business began to pick up. He was able to corner big contracts supplying uniforms to public school teachers. Again, to make this possible, he had to make his sales pitch, school by school and teacher by teacher.

"There was a time when my collectibles reached P100,000 and I couldn't sleep. But I've since learned to relax and not bite my fingernails over them," he says.

In the beginning he made the rounds of public elementary and high schools in the city only. Soon he went to barrio schools.

Sometimes, he would be barred from entering through the front gate. In such a situation, there would always be a friendly teacher who would guide him around the campus and let him enter the backdoor.

He had no vehicle then and he walked to reach his destinations. On top of that, he always brought his son, then a toddler, along. There was no one to leave him with at home.

The Nguyens lived simply. Every centavo they earned they poured into their business. Though they sell clothes, for years on end they never had new clothes. Each time he went to Metro Manila to buy goods, he would only drink a cup of coffee in the morning, skip lunch and eat only upon returning home at night.

They also price their items with affordability in mind. "Our profit margin is low and our price is the same, cash or *utang* (on credit)," Nguyen says.

And he is not afraid to put his money where his mouth is. He said most businessmen into trading would buy just enough goods to cover his orders.

"This is not a sound practice," he says. "I would not want my customers to be told we don't have what they want," he says.

Disappointing his clients is one risk he cannot take.

Heady new mix for business travelers on the go

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

AS a fitting kickoff for another busy travel year, business travel execs should try out Russian dressing and chocolates.

That's the literally heady new mix over at Toni&Guy, that upscale Makati hairdressing salon located at posh 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

No, Cherry Tiosejo-Reyes, sole Philippine franchisee of Essensuals Hairdressing The Next Generation Toni&Guy, and creative and managing director of the salon, hasn't branched into food. The Russian tag is because Toni&Guy's newest acquisition is hair stylist Oleg Stepanovs, who comes straight from the steppes of Russia, so to speak, to the sparkling blue and white-hued aluminum and glass ambience of Toni&Guy. And the chocolates are because Chocolate Head hair mask, in its mint, peppermint and Treat Me Right varieties, is absolutely the latest technique for getting dry, damaged and distressed, chemically treated hair back into shape.

By "importing" an expert such as Stepanovs, the barely two-year-old salon is proud to proclaim that it is doing its part in improving not just the trade but more accurately the cultural and artistic balance between the Philippines and Russia—via the beauty business.

Stepanovs began his career with a diploma of master tradesman-hairdressing and advanced trade diploma, women's hairdressing and modeling, from the Ministry of Consumer Services, Riga, Latvia. He became a master hair stylist/trainor at the Hairdressing Art Studio, also in Riga, Latvia from December 1992 to December 1994, and by 1995, he was top stylist and colorist at LLC "Koala," Riga, Latvia.

He next took diplomas in hairdressing at Toni&Guy, London, UK in 1998, 2003 and 2004. In 1999, he collected a diploma in hairstyling and modeling from the Russian Hairdressing Academy, Moscow, Russia. In 2000, he was presenter and awarded best in Covergirl in the Robert Weiner Workshop in Moscow.

He took up "The Science of Color and Perm" in 2001 at the Goldwell International Education, Dermschtadt, Germany. In the next three years, from 2001-2004, he concentrated on his advanced diploma in hairdressing at Vidal Sassoon, London, returning for a while to Riga last year before taking up the invitation to join Toni&Guy in Manila.

STEPANOVS

Stepanovs offers the best of continental hair styling, coloring and dressing. He definitely does not fit into the mold of the old-time crusty and dour Redsky, but is more the lively and modern young European who is meeting his Philippine experience with contemporary verve and enthusiasm. And getting the same response from the lucky ladies (and gentlemen) submitting their tresses to his expert hands.

And speaking of tresses, Cherry urges her clientele to try out the Chocolate Head after-holiday treatment for overworked hair. Called "chocolate mint makeover," the treatment is a five-minute spa conditioning mask that will give you full, shiny and healthy hair. The delightful smell of chocolate peppermint provides a cooling sensation as well as invigorate your scalp. For color-treated hair, this is especially recommended.

Or you can ask for a Treat Me Right hair mask before you get your hair washed. For deeper conditioning, ask for a turban and sit for five minutes under a low-heat dryer.

And even better yet, enjoy that tantalizing scent of chocolate for that aromatherapy boost. How's that for looking and smelling yummy?

So, why not make it a date for some chocolate ... with a Russian? Call Essensuals and have a fabulous traveling year!

Traveling Catholic style

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THERE is something about human nature that yearns to find the spiritual in the physical.

Much like doubting Thomas, many want to find proof of their faith in things they could actually see, touch and experience.

The Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines knows this well.

It realizes that while many among its flock believe in the tenets on faith alone, there are those who want something more, something closer to their everyday experiences.

One of the avenues by which the Church meets this need is by organizing pilgrimages here and abroad, through groups such as Catholic Travel Inc.

Catholic Travel head Msgr. Clem Ignacio tells SundayBiz that pilgrimages help the clergy, religious and lay renew their faith.

By showing them the actual places where the saints lived, for instance, and the path that Jesus Christ took from birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion, they get a better understanding of their faith, Ignacio says.

Ignacio adds that Catholic Travel's pilgrimages include a chaplain to guide them through the historical and religious significance of the places in their itinerary.

One of the popular pilgrimages is the 16-day Journey with the Saints tour, that takes pilgrims from Rome to visit the Vatican, to Assisi and Florence in Italy before going to Barcelona, Spain, then on to Lourdes, Fatima and to Lisbon, Portugal, the birthplace of St. Anthony of Padua.

Another popular tour is the Marian Experience that also runs for 21 days. Pilgrims travel from Barcelona to Bilbao, Valladolid, Porto, Fatima, Lisbon, Rome, Florence and Milan.

Then there is the Holy Land tour, which many Catholics consider to be a must in their lifetime.

PILGRIMS on the Sea of Galilee

The itinerary includes stops in Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Ceasarea, Haifa, Tiberias, Capernaun, Cana, Nazareth, Mt. Tabor, Qumran, Jerusalem and Bethlehem—places that figured prominently in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

"By seeing how Jesus Christ lived among us as a man, pilgrims better understand his divinity," Ignacio says.

Catholic Travel has been bringing pilgrims to these and other places since 1961, upon the initiative of Rufino Cardinal Santos, former Archbishop of Manila.

After more than 40 years, Catholic Travel has fine tuned and expanded its itineraries.

This year, scheduled pilgrimages include one that will trace the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus.

The trip will include stops in Paris, Lourdes, Loyola, Javier, Barcelona, Nice, Pisa, Florence and Rome.

Catholic Travel's services not only include the development of the itinerary, but also the visa and ticketing arrangements.

All the interested pilgrim has to do is to sign up for the tour and pay the fee, which varies according to the itinerary, but is usually less than the fees quoted by commercial travel agencies.

Not only do they get to see some of the most beautiful places the world has to offer, they also renew their pride in being Roman Catholics as a bonus. *(For more information, call Catholic Travel Inc. at 523-2523)*

New book highlights risk and rewards …

From page B10

yet tested template to stay together in sickness, in health and in business.

Couples In Business celebrates 26 partners in life who've successfully crossed and still crisscross the blurred boundary of love and work together. These couples are making real contributions to their own self-realization, to their partners and to their communities. The featured couples talk about the hard times, missed opportunities and failures.

And copreneurs live with the reality that there are no strict boundaries separating one domain from the other. For them, love and work is a twain that meets regularly to blur the divide between the personal and the professional, home from business.

If you're thinking of going into business or starting one with the significant other, grab a copy of the inspiring book. It may spare you from a lot of aggravation or introduce you to a "future business that will make the flame burn even brighter and bring in the fortune you've always dreamed of."

(For more info on Doers Dreamers Risktakers 2 , call 9287076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph.)

First thematic convention center launched in Palawan

PUERTO Princesa, Palawan—Palawan is now the newest convention destination in the country. Setting the standard among convention venues is The Legend Hotel Palawan's crown jewel: the Palawan Convention Center. An innovative amalgam of form and function, the Palawan Convention Center stands out as one of the top business facilities—both in Palawan and the entire country.

Nestled within a tropical-inspired park that boasts lush greenery and a bridge that traverses a small lagoon, it is the first thematic convention center that can be transformed into three ballrooms. The master-planned Palawan Convention Center can accommodate up to 850 guests in a banquet-type setting and up to 1,250 guests in a theater-type arrangement. Construction of the convention center is underway and is expected to open its doors by February 2005.

Set at the heart of Puerto Princesa, The Legend Hotel Palawan brings almost every worthy destination in Palawan within reach. Guests will find it the perfect start-off point for their Palawan adventures. From here, they are also given a taste of the local scene and culture, as well as unmatched accessibility to the Palawan Airport, premier shopping districts, banks, restaurants, bars and other leisure hubs.

More than a destination, Palawan is a story you tell—a story that evolves as its people, culture and landscape change with the times.

These days, the story revolves around how Palawan is fast becoming the next best conference venue in the country.

Palawan is every bit the paradise it is touted to be. It is home to a breathtaking expanse of tropical rainforests and marine wilderness, as well as exotic flora and fauna. While this abundance of natural beauty has attracted its share of eco-tourism, exciting new economic opportunities have sprung up in the region, making it an ideal stamping ground for commerce.

The main building and annex of The Legend Hotel Palawan host a total of 103 rooms. Aside from the executive suite, there are also three junior suites, 18 deluxe rooms, 21 premium rooms, 51 standard rooms—two of which are specially designed for physically challenged guests—and seven team rooms.

All rooms are equipped with cable TV, an IDD/NDD telephone system, an electronic bedside control panel, hot and cold water supply, air-conditioning with individual temperature control and electronic fire detection and prevention system.

The Legend Hotel Palawan epitomizes what quality tour, conference and event hosting is all about. It brings together a choice location, comfort and convenience to create an ambience that is exactly what convention groups are looking for.

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VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE
OF POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

To All Stockholders:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Victorias Milling Company, Inc. previously scheduled on 1 March 2005, has been postponed by the Board of Directors to 1 April 2005 at 9:00 in the morning.

Formal notice and agenda for the meeting shall be published later.

(Sgd.) SANTIAGO T. GABIONZA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

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PABLO LANSANGAN TIOSECO, SR.

FEBRUARY 10, 1922 - JANUARY 28, 2005

Gloria Y. Pineda, wife;
Children & Children-in-law:
- **Becky** (†) & **Rene Mendoza** (†)
- **Racquel** & **Jun Sta Ines**
- **Regie** & **Eddie Galang**
- **Rose** and **Vic Arnaiz**
- **Gigi Tioseco**
- **Bonnie** and **Tina (Uylangco)Tioseco, Jr.**
- **Doris** & **Romy de Guzman**
- **Ditas Tioseco**
- **Emy Tioseco** (†)
- **Apie Tioseco** (†)
- **Marilou** & **Mario Ferriols**
- **Martin** and **Marlyn** (**Castro**) **Tioseco**
- Grandchildren and great grandchildren

His remains will lie in **CAPILLA DE SAN FRANCISCO SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH, MULTI-PURPOSE CHAPEL, MCKINLEY ROAD, FORBES PARK MAKATI** on January 28 and will be brought to Concepcion Tarlac on January 31 at 8:00 AM. His remains will lie at the family residence. Interment will be on February 1, 2005 after the 9:00 AM mass at Our Lady of Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Concepcion, Tarlac.

In loving memory

of our beloved
former **Executive Vice President**

JUSTICE EUBOLO "Bobby" VERSOLA

Died in the grace of our Lord
on January 28, 2005 at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state
at the Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City.

In our hearts you remain forever.

From the Officers and staff of

GMA Network, Inc.

Our Dearly Beloved

TRINIDAD "TRINING" MATABUENA ISLAN-ALVAREZ

Former Vice Mayor of San Pedro, Laguna

Passed away on January 02, 2005
at Bourbonnais, Illinois USA

We, the children, **Richard, Perla, Liwayway, Violeta** and families wish to inform relatives, political colleagues and friends that her remains will lie in state at San Pedro Apostol Mortuary, San Pedro, Laguna on January 30, 2005, February 1-2-3, 2005.

Necrological rites will be held at:

San Pedro Municipal Building at 8:00 AM
to 5:00 PM – January 31, 2005
San Pedro Apostol Parish Mortuary –
February 02, 2005
Interment will be at St. Peter Crypt,
February 03, 2005 at 1:00 PM.

"If my parting has left a void, then fill it with
remembered joy; a friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
ah yes, these things, I too will miss."

For details call (02) 869-0900 / 0920-6084124
0917-5446983 / 09198574245

DR. PACITA NIEVA CAMARA

Optometrist

wife of **Santiago A. Camara** (†)
of Atimonan, Quezon

Passed away on January 27, 2005
at the age of 81.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

She is survived by her loving sister **Sol Nieva** and children **Dito** and **Emma**, **Boy** and **Dedette**, **Milo** and **Charie**, and **Vic** (†), sister-in-law **Charing**, grandchildren and great granchild **Uno**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on February 1, 2005 after the 9 am Mass at Loyola Gardens, Marikina City.

In Memory of Our Beloved

Engr. Abelardo "Mike" A. Muyco, Jr.

Past Master, RED MOUNTAIN LODGE (F&AM)
President, PSME Cagayan de Oro Chapter
President, Rotary Club of South Cagayan de Oro

March 6, 1941 – January 27, 2005

His bereaved wife, **Rhod**; children, **Bongbong**, **Bingbing & Tata**, **Butch & Grace**, **Jun-Jun & Helen**, **Bambi & Larry**; grandchildren, **Maning**, **Mai**, **Yame**, **Popoy**, **Maeca**, **Mae Ar**, **Gayl**, **Addi**, **Akim**, **Dana**, **Dave**, **Bubbles**, **AK** & great grandchildren; brothers & sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Cagayan de Oro City and will be transferred to Tandag, Surigao del Sur on January 31, 2005.

Interment will be on February 8, 2005.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

The bereaved daughters, **Josefina** and **Solita** with husband **Ricardo Jr.**, son **Gil** with wife **Lilybeth**; grandchildren **Joshua Emmanuel** & **Gillian Lily** and relatives of the late

Norberta "Virginia" Vergara-Amon

who joined her Creator on January 22, 2005

wish to convey their deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

"We know that God
raised the Lord Jesus
from death. He will raise
us to life with Jesus.
He will present us,
along with you,
to God."

2 Corinthians 4:14

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS · DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS · FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith."

(2 Timothy 4)

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him."

Our Dear Daddy,

ATTY. SIMON J. PANGANIBAN

passed away on January 28, 2005 at the age of 71.

We, his children, **Steffi** and **Chito Manhit**, **Sidney**, **Sidfry** and **Mae**, **Sidric** and **Lulu**, together with grandchildren **Ann**, **Ciary**, **Sam**, **Jean**, **Stephen** and **Samuel** and relatives request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Eternal Chapels, San Fernando Homes, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino.

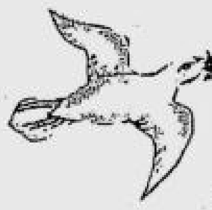
IN LOVING MEMORY

ON HER FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

AGNES "GIRLIE" FLORES DOMINGO

MASSES WILL BE OFFERED TODAY JANUARY 30, 2005, FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HER SOUL, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CHURCH TUALA, GUIMBA, NUEVA ECIJA	6:00 AM
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CHURCH BAGUIO CITY	6:15 AM
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO MCKINLEY ROAD, FORBES PARK MAKATI CITY	6:15 AM
SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH INTRAMUROS, MANILA	6:30 AM
ST. JUDE ARCHDIOCESAN SHRINE 1420 J.P. LAUREL SAN MIGUEL MANILA	7:00 AM
MALATE CATHOLIC CHURCH 2000 M.H. DEL PILAR, MALATE,MLA	7:00 AM
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH SINGALONG, MANILA	7:00 AM



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN**

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JOHN XAVIER LOPEZ YU

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 14, 2005

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you, our relatives and friends, near and far, who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, gave donations and who, in countless ways, expressed your love, concern and support in celebrating Xavier's coming home to his Creator.

*"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep
for You alone Lord make me secure."* **(Psalm 4:9)**

CLASSIFIEDS

CEBU PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE SERVICES

Cebu Pacific International Language Services, Inc. (CPILS, INC.) is a pioneering tutorial services specializing in teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to Asian students. We are looking for competent individuals to fill the following positions:

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- Between 28 - 40 years old
- Preferably an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

HRD
Cebu Pacific International Language Services
Benedicto Building (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Avenue, Cebu City
Tel. # (032) 416-7637

Or you can send your applications through our e-mail address
eliza_cpils@yahoo.com

or fax your application at 032-416-7638

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential and office furniture/equipment, Chevy '98 S-10 Pick-up and Forklift, on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

Bedroom Furniture	Living Room Furniture	Dining Room Furniture
Headboards, frames	Sofa and Easy chairs	Chest of drawers
Tables	Mattresses	Dining Room chairs
Chest of drawers	China Cabinets	Etageres
Servers	Mirrors	Bookcases
Buffets	Nightstands	Swivel Chairs
Computer tables and other miscellaneous items	Office Stands	Filing Cabinets

All items can be inspected on January 31 - February 1, 2005 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m .and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Items can be inspected at USAID Warehouse: 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City. Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refund will be done starting February 3, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

Nickle Babbit / Lead

A Buyer is interested in **purchasing** large quantities of NB/Lead. Substantial bonus and possibility of long term commissions paid for assistance in purchasing the contents of various bunkers established prior to WWII. Sellers please contact **Tel. no. (083) 5524507; Cel ph 09204891117**

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale, on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

1 – ea Pick-up Truck 1998 Chevrolet, S-10 model, white, gasoline engine
1 – ea Forklift 1992 Hyster, model H4.00XL-5, pneumatic tires, diesel engine, 4000kg at 500mm load center

All items can be inspected on January 31 - February 1, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Items can be inspected at USAID Warehouse: 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City (Warehouse is located between EDSA and Airport road next to bridge and PITC.) Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment must be made and bid deposit will be refunded from February 2 to February 5, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy S. Arquisola or Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

INVITATION TO BID

The Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. now invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders to bid for assorted scrap (iron/steel), unserviceable electrical equipment/devices and unserviceable vehicles with the floor price of P2,219,059.16.

The Bidding Documents may be purchased from Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) Main Office, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (P3,500.00) in cash beginning January 31 to February 8, 2005.

Sealed proposal will be received by the NEECO II - Committee on Disposal of Non-Performing Assets at NEECO II Main Office on or before 2:00 p.m., February 19, 2005 at which time and place of said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidder's authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late submission will not be accepted.

Pre-bid Conference and Inspection of scrap materials will be conducted at the NEECO II Main Office at 2:00 p.m. on February 11, 2005.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than ten (10%) percent of the total bid price.

The NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. JOSEPHINE L. BADIOLA**
Chairperson, Committee on Disposal

(PDI - Jan. 29 & 30, 2005)

INVITATION TO INTERESTED CONTRACTORS

The US Department of Veterans Affairs is inviting qualified contractors to participate in the solicitation for the **SSA OFFICE SPACE REALIGNMENT PROJECT** located at 1131 Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Cost range: Between P3,500,000.00 – P4,200,000.00

At a minimum, each firm must meet the following requirements:

a. PCAB License Category: Class "B"
b. Must have the capability to meet local bonding requirements
c. Must have no political or business affiliations that could be considered contrary to the interests of the United States

Release of Solicitation : February 2, 2005
Submission of Bids : March 4, 2005

Interested contractors are required to submit a letter of intent to participate in the solicitation to the Contracting Officer, US Department of Veterans Affairs, 2201 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (Phone: 833-4566 to 69 ext 8210/ Fax: 831-4454)

(PDI - Jan. 30, 2005)

A Full-service Law Firm is in need of skilled individuals to fill in positions for

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

- Preferably graduates of UP, Ateneo, La Salle, UST or other reputable schools
- High level of skill in written and spoken English
- High capacity for analytical thought
- Highly organized and willing to work in a fast-paced environment
- Proficient with various computer applications

**Please send Application Letter, Resumé, Transcript of Records and other credentials to:
(CODE - LA)
P.O. Box 2028 MCPO, 1250 Makati City**

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
City of Samal
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP2)

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

January 30, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contracts located at Barangay Libertad, City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as define in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte and Implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Construction of Libertad Potable Water System (Level II) under Contract Number RIWS 04 066 01 KAP-DN.

Project Duration : **111 Calendar Days**
Bidding Documents : **PHP 4,000.00**
Minimum Bid Security : **PHP 35,000.00**
Bid Closing Date : **March 01, 2005 Time 2:00 PM**

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
I	Excavation Works	1,329.30	cu.m.
II	Structural Concrete, Class "A" 3,000 psi	39.55	cu.m.
III	Installation of Pipelines	6,986.00	ln.m.
IV	Backfilling	1,322	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

1 Bagger Portable Concrete Mixer – 1 Unit (owned); Concrete Vibrator – 1 Unit (owned); Bar Cutter – 1 Unit (owned)

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte starting January 31, 2005 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 4,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on February 11, 2005 at 2:00 A.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PHP 35,000.00 in form of **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee**, on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte, on or before the Bid closing date on March 01, 2005 at 2:00 PM at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Samal, Davao del Norte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnify to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOCAM JOSEPH C. JOCSON**
Chairman LGU-BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - January 30, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
HEADQUARTERS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP
Camp Crame, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Traffic Management Group Bids and Awards Committee (TMB BAC) invites interested bidder to bid for transport requirement of TMG describe as follows:

Asia Utility Vehicle 5 door lift back rear door
Engine 1600 cc Gasoline fed
Manually operated
Seating Capacity – 10 passengers
Body color & markings – white with 2 blue horizontal stripe
  and appropriate TMG/PNP Markings seal as specified
  in NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 99-002 dated Jan 1999
Standard vehicles accessories:
Police rotary blinker (light bar red and blue)
Emergency siren w/ PA system

Only bidders accredited by PNP will be allowed to participate in the following activities: (Bidders are advised to submit / apply for accreditation requirements to PNP Directorate for Research and Development).

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Submission of Sealed Bid and Pre Bid Requirement	18 Feb. 05	0900H	TMG Conference Room

FOR INQUIRY Call Tel. No. 721-85-11
(ATTN: PSSUPT MANOLO C TEODORO)

(PDI - Jan. 23, 30 & Feb. 6, 2005)

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February 26, 2005, Saturday 9:30 a.m. 5/F Sign of the Anvil, Equitable PCIBank Tower I, Makati Ave., Makati City

CALOOCAN

Lot 1 - Res'l.Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 225 sqm L33 Blk21 Cottonwood St, Rainbow Vill.5 Ph3, Brgy. Deparo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,816,650.00

LAS PINAS

Res'l. Twnhse, RoyalSouth Townhomes, Brgy. Talon Singko
Lot 2 – L10 Blk16 FA 63 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 915,000.00
Lot 3 – L9 Blk16 FA 65 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 907,500.00
Lot 4 – L21 Blk16 FA 78 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 970,500.00
Lot 5 – L28 Blk16 FA 120 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,075,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Royal South Townhomes, Brgy. Talon Singko
Lot 6 – L1-3 Blk14 LA 149 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 745,000.00
Lot 7 – L3&4 Blk16 LA 155 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 775,000.00

MANILA

Lot 8 - Comm'l. Lot LA 679 sqm
#769 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 13,578,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 9 - Res'l w/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 1,333 sqm, FA 580 sqm
#213 Calachuchi St, Ayala Alabang Vill, (Ph3-A2), Brgy. Alabang
Minimum Bid Price P 21,000,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Lot 10 - Res'l. Lot LA 356 sqm
L12 Blk14, Cadena de Amor St, United Parañaque 4, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,330,000.00

Lot 11 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm L28 Blk9 Doña Leonila St. (Rd Lot 7), Ireneville-1 Subd, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,272,000.00

Lot 12 - Res'l. Lot LA 435 sqm
L26 Blk26 Fernwood Circle, Marcelo Green Vill. Ph2
Minimum Bid Price P 2,427,840.00

PASIG

Comm'l Condo., Taipan Place Condo., Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Lot 13 – Unit 1204 FA 126.99 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,513,185.00
Lot 14 – Unit 1205 FA 127.33sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 5,033,880.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 15 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 924 sqm, FA 439 sqm
18 (Formerly 22) Rosa Alvero St. Xavierville Subd. II, Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price P 13,361,400.00

Lot 16 – Res'l. Condo. FA 44 sqm
Unit 610 PrinceJun Condo,TimogAve
Minimum Bid Price P 1,126,400.00

Lot 17 – Comm'l. Lot LA 2,401 sqm
Lot12-B,14-B & 16-B Aurora Blvd. near cor Gilmore St., Brgy.Valencia, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price P 82,500,000.00

Lot 18 – Res'l. Lot LA 300 sqm
L7 Blk8 Mt. Whitney St., Filinvest Homes 1, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price P 1,912,500.00

Lot 19-Res'l.Lot w/Imprvmnt
LA 262 sqm 401 Rosas St. (L1 Blk5), Villa Verde Homes, Brgy. Santa Monica, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,943,786.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 20 - Res'l. Twnhse FA118.39sqm
Unit 4-A Alpha Victoria Homes, 14th St cor Victoria Ave, Brgy. Damayan Lagi, New Manila
Minimum Bid Price P 7,675,500.00

Lot 21 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA406.70sqm #16(Lot17)&#18(Lot19) PajoSt,Quirino 2-A/QuirinoDist.,Proj.2
Minimum Bid Price P 4,148,340.00

Lot 22 - Res'l. Lot LA 400sqm
L28 Blk148 PalmanovaSt, Neopolitan V (CasaMilan)BrgyPasongPutikNovaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,440,000.00

Lot 23 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA1,343sqm, FA1,870sqm Klanbin Bldg,Corregidor corAbraSts,BagoBantay
Minimum Bid Price P 30,000,000.00

Lot 24 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 77sqm, FA 97.50sqm Road Lot 649-C-4-C, Towerville Homes, Brgy.Culiat
Minimum Bid Price P 1,019,200.00

SAN JUAN

Lot 25 – Res'l. Condo. LA 289.50sqm
Unit 507, 5/F Continental Court, 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price P 7,320,600.00

VALENZUELA

Lot 26 - Res'l. Lots LA 600 sqm
L9-12 Blk1 Vista Verde North Exec. Subd, Ph1-C, Brgy Lawang Bato
Minimum Bid Price P 1,530,000.00

Lot 27 -Res'l. Condo. FA 280.10sqm
Unit 4 Jade Garden Condo. & Townhomes, Don Pedro St, Brgy. Marulas
Minimum Bid Price P 3,529,235.00

Lot 28 – Res'l. Lot LA 539 sqm
L4-B-2-E Tomasa St., Brgy. Parada
Minimum Bid Price P 1,164,240.00

BATANGAS

Lot 29 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 311 sqm, FA 240 sqm
Provincial Rd, Brgy. San Jose, Alitagtag
Minimum Bid Price P 715,300.00

Lot 30 - Res'l. Lot LA 540 sqm
Lot 4 Malvar St, Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,079,000.00

Lot 31 – Res'l. Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 B7Anastacia St., VillaRosaSubd, Brgy. Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800.00

Res'l. Lots, Burgos St, Lipa Royale Subd, Brgy. Inosluban, Lipa City
Lot 32 – L11 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 33 – L12 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 34 – L13 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 35 – L29 Blk20 LA 208.79 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 396,701.00
Lot 36 – L34 Blk20 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 297,000.00
Lot 37 – L5 Blk22 LA 149.51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 296,030.00
Lot 38 – L7 Blk22 LA 149.72 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 284,069.00
Lot 39 – L2 Blk12 LA 509 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 916,200.00

Lot 40 - Res'l. Lot LA 211 sqm
Lot6572-F Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 474,750.00

BATANGAS

Lot 41 - Res'l. Lot LA 220 sqm
Lot6672-G Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 495,000.00

Lot 42 - Res'l. Lot LA 150 sqm
Rd. Lot 32 Victomar Subd, Brgy 4, Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 378,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Las Villas de Aguila, Brgy. Bagong Sikat, Poblacion, Lemery
Lot 43 – L10 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 44 – L11 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 45 – L13 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 46 – L8 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 708,750.00

Res'l Lots, Rancho Vista Subd, Brgy. Santiago, Santo Tomas
Lot 47 – L16 Blk5 LA 725 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,522,500.00
Lot 48 - L44 Blk5 LA 469 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,055,250.00
Lot 49 - L19 Blk1 LA 867 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,820,700.00

CAVITE

Lot 50 - Res'l. Lot LA 775 sqm
Lot10464-A Maguyam Rd, Brgy. Maguyam, Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,743,750.00

Lot 51 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA166sqm,FA83sqm L13 Blk19 Brazil St, FrancevilleExec.Homes, Bulihan,Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 933,486.00

Lot 52 – Res'l. Lot LA 163 sqm
L21 Blk8 Edelweiss St, NeighborhoodArea A, Park Place Subd., Brgy. Anabu, Imus
Minimum Bid Price P 735,300.00

Lot 53 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm 416 Cabba Subd., Brgy. Daang Amaya, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price P 703,891.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, La Marea Ph1, San Pedro
Lot 54 - L13 Blk 1 LA 180 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 936,000.00
Lot 55 - L16 Blk 1 LA 245 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,274,000.00
Lot 56 - L18 Blk 8 LA 206 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,071,200.00

Lot 57–Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 636sqm, FA 234sqm
L2&1 Blk1 Jamaica Hills Subd, Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños
Minimum Bid Price P 2,716,827.00

Res'l. Lots, Town & Country Southville Ph7, Biñan
Lot 58 – L3 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
Lot 59 – L5 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
Lot 60 – L38 Blk30 LA 120 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 276,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Monte Cecilia Subd, Brgy. Pittland, Cabuyao
Lot 61 – L1 Blk4 LA 1,190 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,510,543.00
Lot 62 – L2 Blk4 LA 1,180 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,489,446.00

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vill., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo
Lot 63 – L62 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00
Lot 64 – L61 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00
Lot 65 – L57 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00

RIZAL

Lot 66 - Res'l. Lot LA 805 sqm
L10 Blk10 Azucena Drive & Beverly Hills Subd, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price P 1,610,000.00

Lot 67 - Res'l. Lot LA 1,939 sqm
Lots35-37 Blk7 Golden Shower Drive, Villa Grande Subd, Brgy. Cupang, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,617,500.00

Lot 68 - Res'l. Lot LA 320 sqm
L10&12 Blk13 Ph1 Philadelphia St., Parkhills Exec. Vill., Brgy.Inarawan,San Isidro, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 560,000.00

Lot 69 - Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 419sqm,FA 134sqm #2 Iloilo St. cor AntiqueSt, Banker Vill.Ph1, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 874,500.00

Res'l. Lots, Village East III, Binangonan & Angono
Lot 70 – L43 Blk62-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 71 – L45 Blk62-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 72 – L47 Blk62-A LA204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 73 – L54 Blk 83 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 74 – L25 Blk 21-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00

Lot 75 - Res'l. Lot LA 400 sqm
L14 Blk12 Main Road, Phase 1 Village East Exec. Homes II, San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price P 748,000.00

Lot 76-Res'l. Lot/Rawland LA 4,418sqm
Sitio Nagpatong, Bgy. San Juan,Baras
Minimum Bid Price P 2,650,500.00

Lot 77 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 790sqm, FA 248sqm L5 Blk5 2ndSt, Cavalier Village, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 3,173,050.00

Lot 78 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 580 sqm, FA 268 sqm
891 Belmont St, Brookside Hills Subd, Batong Dalig, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price P 2,091,490.00

Lot 79 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 485 sqm, FA 357 sqm
L1 Blk3, L4 Blk8 & L3-A Clarion St., Park Place Subd., Brgy. San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price P 3,622,860.00

Res'l. Lots, Forest Hills Res'l Estates&Golf & Country Club, Brgy.San Isidro
Lot 80 – L26 Blk22 Ph1 LA 402 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,085,400.00
Lot 81 – L27 Blk22 Ph1 LA 414 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,117,800.00
Lot 82 – L24 Blk22 Ph1 LA 428 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,155,600.00
Lot 83 – L23 Blk22 LA 432 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,555,200.00
Lot 84 – L22 Blk22 Ph1 LA 451 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,217,700.00

TAGAYTAY

Res'l Lots, Crosswinds Subd., Iruhin
Lot 85 - L16 Blk 5 LA 737 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,869,250.00
Lot 86 - L17 Blk 5 LA 726 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,811,500.00
Lot 87 - L3 Blk 2 LA 687 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,606,750.00

Lot 88 - Res'l. Lot LA 2,000sqm
Lot G Amadeo Prov. Rd, Royal Pines West
Minimum Bid Price P 5,610,000.00

SHOW MONEY P25,000.00 PER PROPERTY CASH OR MC

CPMI Exclusive Auction Manager
Mike: (0918)6169574, Malu: (0918)2136670,
Muffet: (0915)4125196

HOTLINE NUMBERS:
(02)8197377, (02)8197374, (02)8116234

GUARANTEED FINANCING !!
10% DP for Vacant Lots
20% DP for Property w/ Improvements
(split 10 - 10)
10 Years to Pay @ 12% int. p.a. Fixed

ALL PROPERTIES ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. THE BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ANY PROPERTY BEFORE THE AUCTION PLEASE CONFIRM ATTENDANCE TO ENSURE SEATS AND PARKING.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

PEST CONTROL

Termites/ipis control services very effective 5yrs warranty 4124788 • 7009066 www.yanyanco.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

9635 Kamagong St Makati 455 sqm P38T/sqm
9637 Kamagong St Makati 440 sqm P38T/sqm
Miramar 817-1589/91/94

GRD. FLR. COMM'L CONDO Valero, Salcedo Vill., Makati 140m² + 2 parking slots P11M 6471240•4395075•09175312376

QUEZON CITY

Comm'l Bldg. & Lot 4 Sale /Income QC 0917-7488929

THE COLUMBIA GARDEN RESIDENCES
Commonwealth Avenue, Q.C.

1BR, 2BR, 3BR Units
For sale, or lease, or lease-to-purchase.
Special discounts for cash sales.

CALL 952-9557, 952-6334, 759-2237, 892-4148, 818-7879

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR JOINT VENTURE
BATANGAS
WHITE COVE RESORT
Nasugbu, Batangas
16.12 hectares
For inquiries, please call
UCPB Asset Management & Disposition Division
Tel No 811-9707
UCPB

Newly refurbished Makati Condo Units
2BR, 2TB, MR, FF, Parking.
Colonnade Residences 104, 108
Call Ana 759-2237.

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

La Mirasol Village
Cabrera Rd., Brgy. San Juan, Taytay, Rizal very near
SAN BEDA EAST

Available For Sale: House & Lot and Lot only
For Inquiries, please call:
CT BUILDERS INC.
646-77-96; 646-95-38
0916-522-3925
Brokers & Agents are Welcome
OPEN HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 12, 2005
HLURB License to Sell No. 08144

LOT

MAKATI

LOT FOR SALE
400sqm located at 5781 FELIPE ST., BEL-AIR II, MAKATI CITY.
3rd House from Kalayaan Ave.
High-rise building allowed on site
CALL 0918-9418659

COMMERCIAL

LAGUNA

3Sty w/Roof Comm'l Bldg. 161m² Sani 6457251 09209129092 D.B.O.

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

PRIME PROPERTY
418sqm 5Dr 2Sty Apt. Infrnt of Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Pasig 09189422422•09178212825

QUEZON CITY

"Kamias #11 K-I cor K-6th NEW " 9210255 9219967 9209822

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

L635 corlot BelAir Makati
L604 corlot V.Luna QC 20t/m²
L100 Proj.8 QC T-payment
L475 Cong.AvQC 9298376 DB

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang Brand New LA-700 FA-510 842-9461 0917-8406321 842-9356

Rush Sale Ayala Alabang Built '89 LA-540 FA-410 Near Acacia & Madr Gate 842-9461 842-9356 0917-8406321

MAKATI

MAKATI VILLAGES BEST BUY Investment 0918-9392979

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse3stry/3br2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

MUNTINLUPA

BN HSE AAV P52M 631-3296

PARANAQUE

19837 Oak St., Executive Vill. Sun Valley Paranaque City T-09178246244

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

LA1800m² 8223346/8219948

MARCELO GREEN 2sty Hse LA350m² corner 5BR 4TB 6471240•4395075•09175312376

PASIG

Valle Verde I 528m² 09178114261

QUEZON CITY

3BR-4BR Bung/Thse/2sty P3M-P5.5M neg. 09178997547

5drs apt Cubao 210m² 4M brokers welcome 6828632

BUNG, mentained, 2BR1TB P2.0M DBO 09178997547

•FILINVEST II Q.C. 280m²-LA 350m²-FA P4M RUSH 4BR 4TB 2-sty 6319877 / 09178999797

Gilmore Ave New Mla 9110190

HORSESHOE VILLAGE LA-1360m² 2sty hse+guest hse/afo pool very quiet garden elevated 6471240•4395075•09175312376

New Intramuros VIII QC 9510720 / 09179874537 Rush

Proj.8 2Stry S.Pool 1028m² Sani 6457251 09209129092

RUSH SALE owner leaving #13 Admirable Lane Sanville Subd 9280672 Best offer only

Tandang Sora 2.5M neg Call Etong 4554638 / Bubut 09209064953

TANDANG SORA P2.1M NEG 3BR,TB, CG, NAWASA, PLDT W/AIRCON NR VISAYAS AVE 0920-9607526 / 9351681

RIZAL

1.5M 3BR 200sqm 3Car Grge Brookside Cainta 656-8768

ANT. Robinsons East 171m² 54m²FA 2.2M 427-8474 Ne

Brookside Cainta 278m² 4br 2tb w/Grge 09173600948 • 09177870627

Rush 3br 2t&b 3Cp Lot 479m² Hse 160m² Villa Cecilia Antipolo P4M Negotiable 6467796 6469538 Myra

OTHER PROVINCIAL

300sqm Lot 1.5M Nice 3BR 2TB House 87sqm Carmen Cag De Oro Behind City Hospital nr. Cathedral Church !!!RUSH SALE!!! 09175330491

CAG DE ORO 300sqm 3BR 2TB 1.5M 09175330491

BULACAN

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

CAVITE

AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm & lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Violy

LAGUNA

BINAN P400T/mo 5201792

H&L LA=90sqm FA=36sqm Villa de Calamba Laguna T-0916-3858863 CASH ONLY T-0919-4607725 • P650T

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.2M C5 Nr The Fort 12T/mo. or 4Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

Condo nr. FORT MAKATI C5 Ortigas 2.5M 2BR 1T&B Carol •0917-896 81 80

MAKATI CONDO SPECIALIST Many Choices 0918-9392979

Makati Prime Citadel Condo Kalayaan St. Mkt. Ave. 1BR 55.22m² 50T/m² Furnished Lily 8323997; Cora 6343804 Cora

MAKATI Terraces Condo Davila St Makati City 42sqm P2M negotiable Contact 0917-3387247 and 09173042138

OBRERO 109m² 426-1982

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Condo/Thse for sale Makati
In NEED of PROPERTY?
For Rent/Sale H&L/Condo
Makati/Fort/Ortigas Area
BSA Tower 2BR w/ pkg-7M
Greenbelt U-2808 NICE
Paragon 3BR FF-Rent
Bi-level CLASS 4 expat
Pacific Plaza Fort/Ayala
Essensa/Regent/Rockwell
Forbs/Dasma/Urda/BAWSL
☺ Aldrin G. Lic. Broker ☺
0918-9392979 ☎7181154

MAKATI

PALM TOWER - MAKATI CENTRAL PARK - PASAY RESIDENTIAL, COMM'L & PARKG, LOOK: RUBY TEL NOS: 8112517/19 THRU: BANK/PAG-IBIG

RENT 2 OWN 10K 2br Nr Mktl 0922-8086855

RES. CONDO, 20% MOVE-IN OR CASH, 1BR, 2BR, 3BR, W/PKG. LOC. MKT, QC, & ROXAS BLVD. T - 750-8291/0927-7996662

Rockwell 3BR 3Pkg Rizal 19M DBO • 0917-7488929

MANILA

Bnew T'hses nr DLSU-Taft Ave LA42-48Sm 1-2Car P4.2M UP 562-3531/0917-5272166

CONDO APT w/grg 5636296

INVESTMENT PROP - Nr UST 250 sqm 5 Drs 8M 6341212

MANDALUYONG

CITYLAND SHAW 1BR FRONT SHANG P2.1M 09175213839

CONDO,BNEW, RFO 09192189817

Mandaluyong P1.28M FA27m² 1BedRm RFO Near Boni 0917-8445634 7272740 L307

PASIG

Rent 2Own Condo 2br/30K Ortigas Cheil 0915-5838525

RENT TO OWN! CONDO nr. Fort & Makati 2-4BR Fully Secured 15K monthly & 45K DP Anne • (0920) 236-0929

RUSH SALE CAMBRIDGE 40m² LOFT 250Tdp 9Tmo del '06 CEL # 09178230846 HANNAH

Valle Verde 2 3br 9.8M 7460237 • 09178125791

QUEZON CITY

2sty B/nw 7units 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9-5.3M 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

CUBAO P1.5M Flexible Terms Offsetting OK 09178348080

Golfhills P1.48M FA33m² BN RFO Pool Tennis Court Nr Ateneo/UP Neg 0917-8445634

Loyola Gr Villas nr Ateneo cor Unit with pool bsktbll crt garden gazebo 3br3tb mdsrm 2cargar 5Mneg Gula 4349699

NICE AFFORDABLE BEST LOC 9415641 / 0927-3925028

SCT TUAZON 2.3M 4163161

Twnhse @ Hobart Homes Commonwealth QC LA95sqm FA150sqm 2sty 3BR + 3TB with maids room with TB Call 9511470/5312772 P4.0M net

SAN JUAN

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

OTHER AREAS

Royale Tagaytay Townhse P3.5M only 09275222683

VARIED AREAS

Elegant BN Twnhses SMH & San Juan Move-in 30%DP 70% 12mos. No Int 0917-7488929

MAKATI P2Mup 09177648087 FORT BONIFACIO P3M up GREENHILLS P1Mup 4224906

LOT

LAGUNA BELAIR 3, P5800/sqm RUSH 138sqm 09178152012

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3.473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
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Equitable PCI BANK
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Auction Madness Goes to Mindanao!!!

Special Financing as LOW as 6% int. p.a.

February 11, 2005, Friday 1:00 p.m.
DAVAO CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER (Ballroom B), Rogine's Compound, F. Torres St., Davao City

COTABATO

Lot1–Agro-Industrial Lot w/imprvmnt
LA 54,864 sqm, FA 1,092 sqm
L656-A,656-B-2-A&B,656-D-2 Nat'l HiwayCarpenterHill,Koronadal,South
Minimum Bid Price P8,958,021.00

Lot 2 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 601 sqm L1-D-9-E
Clemente Subd, Brgy.Zone IV (Center Paredes), Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 940,000.00

Lot 3–Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 277 sqm L1-A Slodina Subd, Barrio1, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 305,440.00

Lot 4 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 588 sqm L13-I-8&9
Ardena Subd, Purok Hillside, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Koronadal City
Minimum Bid Price P 281,920.00

Lot 5 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 375 sqm L2 Blk5 Lebanan Subd Zone I, Poblacion, Koronadal City, South
Minimum Bid Price P 538,617.00

Lot 6 - Res'l. Lot LA 374 sqm
L13 Blk7 Pantua Vill, Zone III Poblacion, Koronadal City, South
Minimum Bid Price P 240,000.00

DAVAO

Res'l. Lots,Guadalupe Subd,Lanang
Lot 7 - L2 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 8 - L3 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 9 – L4 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 10 – L5 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 11 – L6 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 12 – L7 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 13 – L8 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 14 – L9 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 15 – L10 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00

DAVAO

Res'l. Lots, Guadalupe Subd, Lanang
Lot 16 – L11 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.0
Lot 17 – L12 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 18 – L13 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 19 – L14 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 20 – L15 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 21 – L16 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 22 – L17 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 23 – L18 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 24 – L19 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00
Lot 25 – L20 Blk11 LA 304 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 608,000.00

Lot 26 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 320 sqm
L41 Blk 2, Diamond St., EcolandSubd.
Minimum Bid Price P 2,552,143.00

Lot 27 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 270 sqm 87- A Molave St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 4,127,355.00

Lot 28 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 236 sqm, FA 331 sqm
L11 Blk3 Waling-waling St, Garden Park Vill., Bajada
Minimum Bid Price P 3,513,291.00

Lot 29 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 300 sqm Narra St., Nova Tierra Village, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,100,000.00

Lot 30 – Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 4[illegible] [illegible]land
Sub[illegible]
Minimum Bid Price P 1,[illegible].00
WITHDRAWN

GENERAL SANTOS

Res'l./ Industrial Lots, Airport Road, Banisil Subd., Brgy. Tambler
Lot 31 – Lot 7-O-3-A LA 5,522 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,070,750.00
Lot 32 - Lot 7-O-2 LA 2,000 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 450,000.00

GEN. SANTOS

Lot 33–Res'l./Industrial Lot
LA3,922sqm Lot12-E-1 Brgy.Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 2,353,200.00

Lot 34 - Res'l. Lot LA 1,647sqm
Lot 21-I-1 & 21-I-5-R Brgy. Tambler
Minimum Bid Price P 461,160.00

SULTAN KUDARAT

Lot 35–Res'l./Comm'l., Lot
LA1,104sqm L593-G-3 & G-4-B Canos St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 7,862,400.00

Lot 36 – Industrial Lot LA10,000sqm
Lot 328-A-3 Brgy. Carmen, San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,831,410.00

Lot 37 – Res'l. Lot LA 496 sqm
Lot6756-T-5-A Brgy. San Pablo, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 130,200.00

Lot 38 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,099sqm 1st Block, Purok Rosal, Brgy. New Isabela, Tacurong
Minimum Bid Price P 1,023,375.00

Lot 39 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 35,150sqm, FA 17,295sqm
L10089-A&B-2 & 37-A Nat'l. Hway Brgy. Carmen, Tacurong City
Minimum Bid Price P 44,786,320.00

BUKIDNON

Lot 40 – Res'l. Lot LA 564 sqm
Lot501 Davao–Cagayan Nat'l Hi-way, Sitio Dabong–dabong, Bo.Maliag, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price P 282,000.00

Lot 41 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,141sqm Lot A-11-C-7-D-1 Brgy. Lumbo, Valencia City
Minimum Bid Price P 824,760.00

BUTUAN

Lot 42 – Industrial Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 23,301sqm, FA 9,044sqm
L1-A & 2 Km. 4 Baan
Minimum Bid Price P 18,342,225.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Lot 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 1,092 sqm, FA 639 sqm
L39 Blk1 SapphireSt, GoldenVill, Carmen
Minimum Bid Price P 5,592,600.00

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Res'l. Lots, Xavier Estates, Upper Balulang
Lot 44 – L5 Blk6 Ph1 LA 300 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,536,000.00
Lot 45 – L16 Blk14 Ph1 LA 287 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 849,520.00

Lot 46 – Industrial w/ Imprvmnt
LA 2,305sqm Gaabucayan Ext.,Puntod
Minimum Bid Price P 17,573,350.00

Lot 47 - Comm'l. LA 846 sqm
Comm'l Lot # 2 , Osmeña Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 6,091,200.00

Lot 48 – Comm'l. LA 535 sqm
Lot 1 Corrales Ave. Ext.,
Minimum Bid Price P 3,400,000.00

DIPOLOG CITY

Lot 49 - Res'l. LA 3,403 sqm
L2113-F-3 Dipolog-Ipil Nat'l. Highway, Brgy. Olingan
Minimum Bid Price P 2,099,585.00

PARAÑAQUE

Res'l. Condo., Makati South Hills Arcade, East Service Road, Bgy. Balagbag (near airport)
Lot 50 – Unit 201 FA 68.75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,168,750.00
Lot 51 – Unit 301 FA 136.31 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,317,270.00
Lot 52 – Unit 302 FA 107.35 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,824,950.00

Lot 53 – Res'l. Condo. FA 185.87 sqm
Unit 1605 Chateau De Bale Condo. Roxas Blvd., cor Airport Rd. Baclaran(near airport)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,460,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 54 – Res'l. Twnhse FA 230.61 sqm
Unit 13 Capitol Golf Townhomes & Golfers Villas, Capitol Hills (near Ateneo & UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 3,975,980.00

Lot 55 –Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt LA160sqm
Road Lot 649-D-3-C, Towerville Homes, Bgy. Culiat (near UP)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,007,250.00

SAN JUAN

Lot 56 –Comm'l Condo FA 158.76sqm
Mezzanine Shop 4, Goldland Tower Cond., Eisenhower St., Greenhills (near La Salle)
Minimum Bid Price P 4,762,800.00

GUARANTEED FINANCING!!!

10% DP for Vacant Lots
20% DP for Property w/ Improvements
(split 10 - 10)
10 Years to Pay @ 12% int. p.a. Fixed

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SECURITY BANK
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
9/F SBC Centre, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 889-7350 to 52; 887-6788 loc. 2921-26
Fax No.: 887-6796/891-1081; e-mail: PMD@securitybank.com.ph
Website : www.securitybank.com

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BEST DEALS BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

VACANT RESIDENTIAL/ INDUSTRIAL LOTS

1. Vacant Residential Lot
   Lot 3439, Gen. Mascardo St., Bagong Barrio, Kalookan City
   LA: 720m^2; P13.0 Million
2. Vacant Residential Lots
   Southlake Subd., Bo. Bukal, near Pansol Calamba, Laguna
   LA: 240 to 505 m^2 ; P3,000/m^2
3. Vacant Residential Lot
   Lot 26, Blk. 3-E, Orange St., Ruby Park, Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa
   LA: 319 m^2 ; P1.2 Million
4. Vacant Residential Lot
   Lot 1, Abalone St., Jaleville Subd., Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
   LA: 749 m^2 ; P5.5 Million
5. Vacant Industrial Lot
   No. 3 San Andres St., Canumay, Valenzuela
   LA: 9,037m^2 ; P29.0 Million

WAREHOUSES/FACTORY/ COMMERCIAL BLDG.

1. Lot 1-A, Sto Domingo, Cainta, Rizal (near Cainta Junction & Petron)
   LA: 13,174m^2; TFA: 7,521.41m^2; P70.0 Million
2. Along El Camino Road, Bo. Perez and Bahay Pare, Meycauayan, Bulacan,
   LA: 15,000m^2; TFA: 8,736m^2; P97.0 Million
3. 3-storey Building, Along D. Silang St., Poblacion, Batangas City
   LA: 294m^2; FA: 406 m^2 P8.0Million
4. Along Cagayan Valley Road, Mayapyap, Cabanatuan City
   LA: 15,410m^2; TFA: 2,340m^2 ; P50.0 Million
5. Along T. Santiago St., Bo. Lingunan, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
   LA: 38,729m^2; TFA: 7,061m^2; P155.0 Million

HOUSE AND LOTS/ RESD'L. CONDO. UNITS

1. Unit 21-D & 26-B, Richgate Square II Condo. Loblolly Pine cor. Catmon, Cupang, Brgy. Camp 7, Baguio City
   FA: 115.87 & 136.49m^2; P4.7 M/ P5.5 M
2. Unit 1703, 1903, Pacific Coast Condominium Project, Coastal Road, Tambo, Parañaque City (w/ parking slots)
   FA: 164.62m^2/unit; P5.0 Million/unit
3. Unit 5-B Goldland Plaza Condo., Greenhills, San Juan
   FA: 172m^2; P6.1Million
4. 8 Ortega St., San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna; LA: 324 m^2 ; FA: 297 m^2; P1.8 Million
5. 157 Country Drive St., Country Homes, Bo. Soro-soro, Biñan, Laguna
   LA: 240m^2; FA: 210m^2; P1.8 Million

*PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE & SUBJECT TO CHANGE W/O PRIOR NOTICE

*ALL OFFERS (SALE/LEASE) ARE SUBJECT TO MANAGEMENT APPROVAL

* SALE IS ON AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS

LOT

LAS PIÑAS

PHILAM LA694 P7500 / m^2 AL 874-1465 / 0918-937-2571

MAKATI

27 Tampingco San Lorenzo 468 Sqm P20.5 MM
29 Tampingco San Lorenzo 562 Sqm P24.5 MM
Miramar 8171589/91/94

McKinley Hills Global City P10M 634-1212

LOT

PARAÑAQUE

200m^2 St Louise Don Bosco B Living DBO 09266081367

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m^2 P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Exclusive Res'l Lot nr Ateneo/UP/Miriam 204m^2@P8.5th 09189235216

LOT

QUEZON CITY

CHESNUT ST FAIRVIEW QC 720sqm @ P6400/sqm
DON JOSE HEIGHTS QC 400sqm @ P5900/sqm
Text / Call 0920-9006867

KATIPUNAN EXT 3648sqm P9.5T Commercial Maid Rd Ideal for gas station / School / Convenience Store near UP / Ateneo Call 0918 - 9235216

LOT

QUEZON CITY

KATIPUNAN EXT COM'L beside future Kenny Rogers 1,100m^2 & 451m^2@P9.5th/m^2 454-5657 / 0918- 9235216

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS choice lots w/ view, Sweden Street available 426-5650, 929-1832 • 0919-8212235

VISTA REAL CLASSICA Blk.14 Lot9 Ph1-B nr. Ever Gotesco 313m^2 5,500/m^2 Lily 9323997; Cora 6343604 Cora

WEST TRIANGLE HOMES QC 434.3sqm w/old house
SACRED HEART VIL-7 QC Near SM Fairview 300-1200 Sqm (02)-4110352 0917-5140323

RIZAL

120sqm Lot 324K Kingsville Hills 2, San Jose, Antipolo Near Antipolo Church & La Salle. RUSH SALE, Owner Leaving! Call 09175330491 / 6566118

290m^2 Circumferential Rd cor Manuel Quezon resdl interior DBO 6556170; 09266981367

54sqm Lot 150K / Lot @ Greenridge Hills Ph 4, Binangonan, 2 adjacent lots. Nice View, Fresh Air. IRUSH! 09175330491 or 6566118 Amy

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m^2 P3,125/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY ★ 240m^2-up 3,558/m^2 134T D/P 6 Mos to pay 6T Mo. nr Taal Vista 6609372

RUSH SALE!!! Hilltop Subd Cabanatuan City 2Adjcnt lots nr Doctors hosp & NE Pacific Mall 315sqm and 319sqm 0919-6308089/0920-9202508

OTHER PROVINCIAL

315 m^2 Lot Ryal Tgytay 564262 09180604965

BAGUIO BOKAWAN RD 426 SQM 14M 0465156420 09173730799 CECIL

LA RESIDENCIA DE BACOOR 172 SQM 8T/M^2 (0917) 8996019

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LOT

BATANGAS

TAGAYTAY CHOICE LOT NEAR CANOSA HSE OF SPIRITUALITY 500 or 1,752sqm P8T/sqm Contact (0919)8314883

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m^2 P165/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,800/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

EAGLE RIDGE Gen Trias DBO 346sqm 2800/sqm •0918-9219827•

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m^2 P6,028/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m^2 P5,750/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m^2 P2,550/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Town & Country West Molino 180sqm 2400/sqm DBO 0918-9219827

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m^2 FA198.90m^2 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

Chatham House 719sqm near Ayala,Makati P35T/sqm Miramar 817-1589/91/94

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Morong Poultry Farm 3.2 Hectare P550/sq (neg) 0917-8445634 7272740 L307

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LAS PIÑAS

BFRV 2br 10K w/util Grge Grdn 09172407611• 8739969

MAKATI

3BDRM SMVII Mkti 898-1290

MARIKINA

BALIKBAYAN 3BR Furn P25T spacious good loc 6461603

PARAÑAQUE

4BR 3TB NR SM BCTAN 19T 2 GARAGE BONG 09178571049

RIZAL

2BR 2TB 2Toledo Vista Verde Cainta P8.5T 6826632

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR mds rm 2 sty Twnhse full furn 2TB Ecoville nr Ayala Ave. Tel. - 896-4883

CONDO/TWNHSE

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0916 9390355 Rose

P. Burgos. MKT - Studio / 1Br., P12T/mo up. Bnew. Gerry 8971396 to 98

PASIG

3BRM 2TB 1PRKNG SEMI FURN P25T 09209506052

QUEZON CITY

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277618

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2br 2STY APT Strong H'O P8.5K. Pls Call 757-7442

MANILA

561-0960 0920-4136412 AJ 5,500 - 7,000 New Built House

MANDALUYONG

237m^2 3BR 1MR 1T&B 4car grge #25 Makaturing St. Coronado Subd. P25T/mo 2mos.dep,1mo.adv. 5314963 6317329 5325718

QUEZON CITY

193 Ilocos St Bago Bantay QC Call Lovely 455-1692

2A Mpagsangurl cor Klayaan VLuna 2sty P8K 9297506

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

52 Mabitoan Street Masambong SFDM 4149379

7T scmd Fema Rd Proj8- 9262180

Proj 3 2BR own gate 4216148

SAN JUAN

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

CAVITE

APTS 4 RENT 2STOREY NICE SPACIOUS W/ PARKING 373 LANGKAAN DASMA CAVITE 09207037921 / 09205167445

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CUBAO Shp 500m^2 25T 7257342

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OTHER REAL ESTATE

PLAREB (Parañaque - Las Piñas - Alabang Realtors Board) WILL CONDUCT A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM ON FEB 12 & 19, 2005. THIS TWO-SATURDAY SEMINAR IS REQUIRED FOR THE RENEWAL OF REAL ESTATE BROKER'S LICENSE. FOR DETAILS, PLS CALL 8250942 / 43

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HONDA CRV03AT 810K LTHRKM17500 CP09178152912

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MERCEDES

2001 MB SSangyong Musso at copper red co-owned 750K 6376572 / 6376084 8-6 M-F

92 W 1900 MB 8092022

'96 GMC Suburban Blk 880T MB '90 260SE A1 480Th 810-9074

MITSUBISHI

LANCER 96 TX W/LINE 150T 5333246

Space Gear 98 P508K Fld all power 2 tone local 0917-8445634 535-7310

TOYOTA

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CARS

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6550140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/05

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8965630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6315577

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ESTATE OF the late CANDIDO GARCIA SALVADOR was extra-judicially settled among her heirs by means of public instruments, duly authenticated by Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines, VICE-CONSUL NOEMI T. DIAZ, in City of Los Angeles, State of California, USA, under Doc. No. 13543, Series of 2004; AND by public instruments, duly notarized as per Doc. No 3, Page No. 2, Book No 1, Series of 2004 NOTARY PUBLIC DANIEL GRANADOS DATUIN.
(PDI-Jan. 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN ANTONIO and ESTEFANIA ANTONIO was settled by their heirs through an extrajudicial partition acknowledged before Notary Public Allan A. Pasamonte for and in the City of Manila as per Doc No. 286 on Page 59; Book 4; Series of 2004 of his Notarial Register
(PDI-January 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the plate No. PYH 6391 under the name of LUZ BERCEROWAS was lost as per Doc No. 329; Page No. 66; Book No. XXVIII; Series of 2003.
PDI-Jan 23, 30 & Feb 6, 2005

Notice of Loss - Metro Bank Stock Cert #127104 2,250shrs under the name of Ng Wing Fai was declared lost. If no contest received with in 1year new certificate will be issued
(PDI-Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 2005)

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- WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE BUT WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW A SALES CAREER IN TRAVEL
- POSSESSES VERBAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC-CONTACT SKILLS
- LIKEABLE, HONEST, HARDWORKING AS THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES BE WELL-COMPENSATED

BOOKKEEPERS/ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS
- ACCOUNTING GRADUATES
- CPAs OR NON-CPAs ACCEPTED
- WELL-VERSED IN BASIC ACCOUNTING AND IN EXCEL AND WORD
- HARDWORKING, WILLING TO DO FIELDWORK OF BRANCHES/AGENTS AND WILLING TO DO OVERTIME
- WITH OR WITHOUT EXPERIENCE
- WILLING TO BE TRAINED IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION
- TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL AND WELL-DISCIPLINED IN ORDER TO ASSUME HIGHER POSITIONS

INTERESTED? IF YOU ARE, THEN SEND US YOUR LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, BIODATA, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, 2 PCS OF 2X2 PICTURES TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS ON OR BEFORE 8 FEBRUARY 2005:
QCCPO P.O. BOX 2488
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL ENJOY TRAVEL BENEFITS, ABOVE-INDUSTRY WAGES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS, ETC. SO JOIN THE EXCITING WORLD OF TRAVEL!!!

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Mand. / Mkt : 531-5577 / 534-4441
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PETRON
Needs
SERVICE STATION DEALERS
for

Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1. Bgy. Canlalay, Binan, Laguna	P4.0M	02/28/05
2. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	P4.0M	02/28/05
3. Sto. Tomas, Batangas	P4.0M	02/28/05
4. Old Sta. Rita, San Miguel, Bulacan	P4.0M	02/28/05

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:
a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b. Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Sharon Sayson at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282 Submit application forms not later than the deadline specified for each location.

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TAIWAN HITACHI (SUBIC), INC.

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Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: (047) 252-1990/1133
Fax No. (047) 252-1600

We are in need of applicants for the position:

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT MANAGER

- Graduate of Mechanical/Machine Engineering; with at least 15-20 years of experience in Production Management and System Maintenance Management. An experience in Air-conditioning or its related industry is an advantage.
- All applicants must be 45 to 55 years old; male; preferably knows how to speak fluent Mandarin.

Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumé with NBI clearance, birth certificate and employment certificate to:

SBMA Labor Department,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Contact Person: Estelito C. Aliño, Jr.
Personnel Officer
Taiwan Hitachi (Subic) Inc.

SALES AGENT

- With experience
- 21-29 years old

SECRETARY

- Single, 21-29 years old
- Can speak Tagalog, Chinese

Call: **Venus Electronics Ent.**
Tel. Nos. 7365501/7347958/
0917-3299119

We're looking for someone with caliber!

SALESMAN

>Single, personable male 23-28 y/o
>Graduate of any business course
>Has a productive working experience in sales
>Can work with minimum supervision

If you think you're all these and very much interested to work for a dynamic appliance company then We want you! Look for Jennifer at Tel. Nos. 241-1426 • 241-5287 • 241-5288

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OFFICE SECRETARY

- Female, between 20-25 years old
- Computer-literate
- Conversant in English and Filipino

Please send your resumé together with 2x2 colored picture to:

PCMed Incorporated
3/f Legaspi Towers 300
2600 Roxas Blvd cor. Vito Cruz, Malate Mla.

ACCOUNTANT

Must be CPA Accounting graduate

FOOD TECH

Female. Single. Honest. Hardworking
To work in Meycauayan, Bulacan
Send Bio-data w/ picture Apply at
SEE'S INT'L FOOD MFG. CORP.
66 Imperial St., Cubao, Q.C. (near Isetann Tel.No. 9122777)

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TextSoft Solutions
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textsoft@micrologic-systems.com

INVITATION FOR SEALED BID

for a Used Generator Set (Brand: Perkins; Capacity: 20KVA). Sale is on "As is, where is" Basis. Deadline: Feb. 4, 2005. Sealed Bid to be submitted to: Eva Cardenas, The World Bank, Unit, 23F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City.
For queries, call: 917-3030 Chat

INVITATION TO BID

"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

2004 L300 Dropside AEE-452
2004 Isuzu D-Max XNZ-624
2003 Honda CRV AEK-447
1995 Honda Civic UCW-514
2001 Honda Civic VTI WTF-825
2000 Honda Civic WRE-604
2002 Kia Pregio XFW-455
1997 Toyota Corolla UCB-268

For particulars, call 812-4631

INVITATION TO BID

For the disposal of

3 elevated water tanks

located at North Susana Executive Village, Old Balara, Quezon City, "as-is-where-is". Interested buyers may obtain the Bid documents at the Clubhouse of the subdivision, phone 932-3333.

Deadline of Sealed Bid submission
5 p.m. February 11, 2005

(PDI - Jan 30, 2005)

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FREE ASSESSMENT

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Pasig
Pasig City

PASIG CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

needs qualified applicants for:

	POSITION TITLE	REQUIREMENTS
(1)	Secondary School Principal I (major in Science or Mathematics)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences with Masters degree and preferably with Doctoral units. Doctoral degree an advantage. Minimum 5 years of supervisory experience PBET; RA 1080 passer
(2)	Secondary School Head Teachers II (in all subject areas)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences with Masters degree. Minimum 3 years of supervisory experience PBET; RA 1080 passer
(3)	Secondary School Special Science Teachers I (in all subject areas)	Bachelors Degree in Arts and Sciences preferably with Masteral units Minimum 2 years of teaching experience PBET or LET; RA 1080 passer

Please apply at the Office of the City Mayor, Education Unit, Pasig City

---

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PA / RESEARCHER

For our Market Executive (Asean Region)
Willing to be assigned in Manila

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Systematic, hardworking and have good moral character
- Can work with less supervision, long hours and under pressure

Interested applicants must submit their 2-page CV with 2x2 picture, stating current/expected salary to:

James@TempleBarInt.com
or
Fax: +44 1753 651616

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
Island Garden City of Samal
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Community Managed Agrarian Reform and Poverty Reduction Project (CMARPRP)

INVITATION TO BID

January 30, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a grant from Japanese Government thru World Bank towards the cost of CMARPRP and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Tagbaobo, Island Garden City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Island Garden City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte and Implementing partner of DAR for CMARPRP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation and Improvement of the Aumbay Small Water Impounding System under Contract No. RIIRR 04 078 01 AUM-DN.

Project Duration : 90 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security : PHP 25,900.00
Bid Closing Date : March 01, 2005 Time 10:00 AM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item of Works		Quantity	Unit
A	Mobilization & Demobilization of Equipment	1	LS
B	Trickle Box & Posts		
1	Concrete Demolition	1.00	Cu.M.
2	Concrete Class "A" 1:2:4	5.10	Cu.M.
3	Reinforcing Steel Bars	529.00	Kgs.
4	Spindle Shaft extension 1" diam. X 0.80 M. with 2 close bearing holder	1.00	Unit
5	Trickle trashrack (1.40M. X 1.30M.)	1.00	Unit
6	Conc. Footbridge Railings 1-1/4" dia. G.I. Pipe	46.00	Lin.M.
7	Gate Valve Repair	1.00	LS
C	Check Dam		
1	Concrete Demolished	0.15	Cu.M.
2.	Rectangular Slide Gate (0.40M. X 1.0M. X 1/4" thk.	1.00	Unit
3	Concrete Class "A" 1:2:4	0.20	Cu.M.
4	Reinforcing Steel Bars	16.00	Kgs
5	Excavation	1.00	Cu.M.
D	Irrigation Works		
1	Canal Excavation	216.00	Cu.M.
2	Canal Backfill	234.00	Cu.M.
3	Concrete Demolition	1.70	Cu.M.
4	Concrete Class "A" 1:2:4	16.00	Cu.M.
5	Reinforcing Steel Bars for Structures	1,124.00	Kgs
6.	2400 psi Concrete Lined Canal with 1 layer 4" CHB	1,304.00	Lin.M.
8	Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) 450 mm dia.	9.00	Lin.M.
9	Structural Backfill	10.32	Cu.M.
10	Leveling Course	71.00	Cu.M.
11	Hand-laid Boulders	6.00	Cu.M.
E	Repair of SWISA Office	1	LS

Minimum Equipments Required

Dump Truck (2 units) – owned or leased; Vibratory Compactor (2 units) – owned; 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (2 units) – owned, survey instruments – leased/owned; Portable Welding Machine (1 unit) – owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Island Garden City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte starting January 31, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on February 11, 2005 at 10:00 AM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP 25,000.00 in form: **Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, or Bank Guarantee**, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Island Garden City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte, on or before the Bid closing date on March 01, 2005 at 10:00 AM, at which time the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC, ARCDPII of Island Garden City of Samal, Province of Davao del Norte reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. JOCAM JOSEPH C. JOCSON
Chairman, LGU-BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI – January 30, 2005)

TEACHERS NEEDED IN JULY 2005 FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

(Attractive Salary)

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

- ✓ Science and Math
- ✓ Music: vocal, band and strings
- ✓ English and Social Studies

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: The applicants should be able to teach all subjects in any grade in the elementary school.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Degree in Education
- ✓ Teaching License
- ✓ At least 3 years teaching experience in the classroom
- ✓ Fluent in oral and written English
- ✓ 25-35 years old
- ✓ Dedicated, resourceful and creative with a pleasant personality

If you have these qualifications, send your resume via email to: clarissa53@yahoo.com ***not later than Friday, February 4*** or Bring your resume (photo included) ***not later than Tuesday, 8 February*** to:

43 BF Resort III
Las Pinas, Metro Manila

Don't forget to leave your telephone number where we can reach you soonest.

Short-listed applicants will be notified by phone/SMS and will be invited to come for an interview on the 8th and 9th of February 2005.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project	Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No.	Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works	Construction and Development of a Linear Park along J.P. Rizal Avenue, Brgy. Guadalupe, Makati City

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payment under the Contract for Brgy. Guadalupe Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-14)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from Eligible Bidders for the following contract Package:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of Guadalupe Linear Park
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-14
Area	6,579.37 sq.m.
Location	Along J.P. Rizal Avenue, Brgy. Guadalupe, Makati City
Contract Duration	120 calendar days
Project Description	Construction and development of a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work: demolition, hauling/disposal of refuse materials, concrete works, site improvements, supply and installation of park elements, softscape elements, painting works, electrical works and drainage and plumbing works.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 15,000.00	1-4 Feb.	8 am – 5 pm	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engr. Bldg. Kalipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City, 1105	Eligibility checklist free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and Inspection of Bidding Documents	1-4 Feb.	8 am – 5 pm		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Site Inspection	18 Feb.	9 am	J.P. Rizal Avenue, Brgy. Guadalupe, Makati City	
b. Pre-Bid Conference	18 Feb.	1 pm	J.P. Rizal Avenue Makati City Hall	After Site Inspection
Deadline for submission of Bids	4 Mar	8 am	J.P. Rizal Avenue, Makati City Hall	Late bids (bids submitted after 8 am shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	4 Mar	9 am	J.P. Rizal Avenue, Makati City Hall	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The City of Makati shall be the implementing agency of the Contract
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) SINGLE H. B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Kalipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
Email address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No.: 926-6449

(PDI – January 23 & 30, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
METRO MANILA

IN RE: PETITION FOR INCREASE OF VALUATION CHARGE FOR DOMESTIC CARGO AND DOMESTIC CARGO TERMINAL CHARGES.

CAB Case No. EP-25201

PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES,
Petitioner.
x--x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of RA 776, as amended, Notice is hereby given that **PACIFIC EAST ASIA CARGO AIRLINES** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a petition for approval of authority for an increase in the valuation charge for domestic cargo and for domestic cargo terminal charges. The above-entitled case is scheduled for hearing on **17 February 2005 at 3:00 p.m.** at the CAB Conference Room, Old MIA Road, Pasay City before the undersigned at which the applicant shall present relevant evidence.

PEAC DOMESTIC CARGO VALUATION CHARGE		
I. With Declared Value		
Service Type	Current	Proposed
ALL	PHP 0.60 for every PHP 100.00 declared value	PHP 1.00 for every PHP 100.00 declared value

PEAC DOMESTIC CARGO TERMINAL CHARGES		
Type of Charges	Current	Proposed
Air Waybill Issuance Fee	PHP20.00 per Air Waybill	PHP50.00 per Air Waybill
Air Waybill Amendment Fee	None	PHP50.00 per Air Waybill
Collect Service Fee	PHP20.00 per shipment or 1.5% of collect Freight Charges, whichever is higher	PHP50.00 per shipment or 1.5% of collect Freight Charges, whichever higher
Special Cargo Transportation Fee	None	PHP50.00 per shipment Applies to special shipments such as Perishable (PER), Live Animals (AVI), Cash & Other Valuables (VAL) and Firearms
Freight Charges Refund Cargo Withdraw Surcharge	PHP20.00 per shipment or 1.5% of collect Freight Charges, whichever is higher	PHP50.00 per shipment or 1.5% of collect Freight Charges, whichever is higher
Proof of Delivery (POD)	None	PHP50.00 per shipment
Storage Fee	General Cargo/Special Cargo / Valuable Cargo • None	General Cargo/Special Cargo/ Valuable Cargo • Free of charge for cargoes claimed within the day of arrival • PHP0.60 per kg per day (based on chargeable weight) from day of arrival for cargoes stored more than 24hrs. • Minimum charge: PHP50.00 per consignment

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once, two (2) weeks before the scheduled hearing in a newspaper of general circulation.

Let a copy of the petition and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

24 January 2005
Pasay City, Philippines

(PDI - Jan. 30, 2005)

JOB Market MONDAY

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Sunday BIZ

Risks, rewards in 'copreneurship'

Couples in Business
DREAMERS, DOERS, RISKTAKERS 2

By Antonio M. Maghirang
Contributor

THE OPERATIVE buzzword in this new volume of case studies in successful business ventures is copreneurship, or couple entrepreneurship. The term copreneur comes from the blending of the words couple and entrepreneur and was first coined by the husband and wife team of Barnett and Barnett in 1988.

Copreneurs share ownership, management and responsibility for their business as full-time partners.

They are different from other types of entrepreneurs in that they operate a joint venture. One partner may have more of the entrepreneurial spirit than the other partner, but they both are equally committed to the enterprise as owners and managers, and to each other as lovers and parents.

That's the theory anyway and the new book, Couples In Business: Dreamers, Doers, Risktakers 2 (published by the Small Enterprise Development Foundation) features 26 Filipino partners whose daily lives are intertwined by raising a family and running a business. The good news is that they now boast of flourishing enterprises.

One might think it's the easiest couple act but it can be a serious juggle between two competing priorities—home and work—on a daily basis. Add the fact that the two partners are on each other's face and nerves 24 hours a day and copreneurship can be a recipe for personal (as well as professional) disaster for the unprepared.

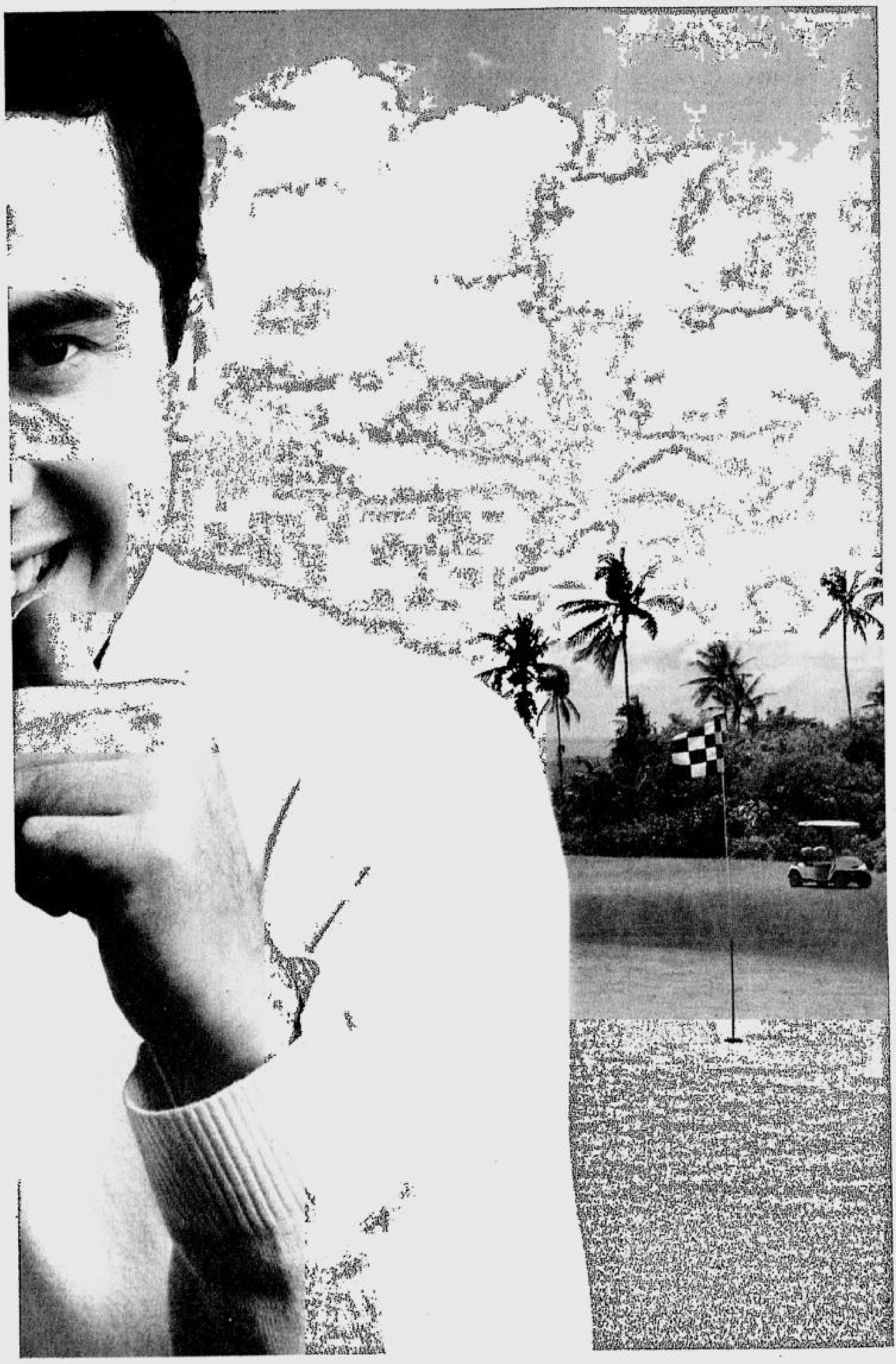
Sadly, there is no preparation for the enterprising couple. One day, the husband and wife are getting by working the stiff shift; the next day, they are on the stress seat dealing with arrogant customers and worrying that their kids may not have done their homework or aren't home yet past dinnertime.

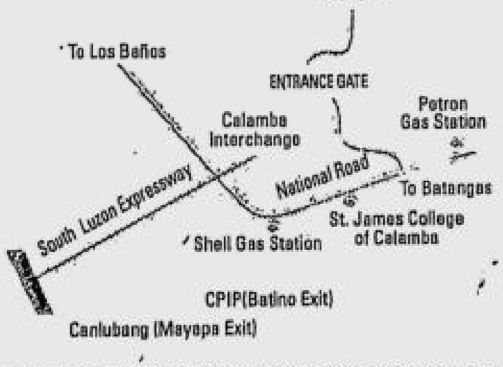
The thing is that entrepreneurial couples are not the type of people who like doing a "pretty good job." They are the kind of people who want to excel, husbands and wives who are not afraid to pursue meaningful, demanding dreams. And they like "having it all."

Because many of these couples have no models to guide them, they tend to develop new models for themselves in running the conjugal business. Many entrepreneurial couples continue to divide home responsibilities along traditional gender lines.

The men and women in Couples in Business meet the competing demands of love and work by adhering to traditional models of masculinity and femininity. That is, rather than rework the conceptual boundary existing between work and home, they rely on a conceptual framework based on gender differences to define their roles within the domains of love and work. In the end, they stumble upon a new

NEW BOOK B3


"Half of me
wants to escape,
and make
a few strokes.
The other half
knows that
I only have
a few hours
to spare,
and it's
back to work,
back to reality."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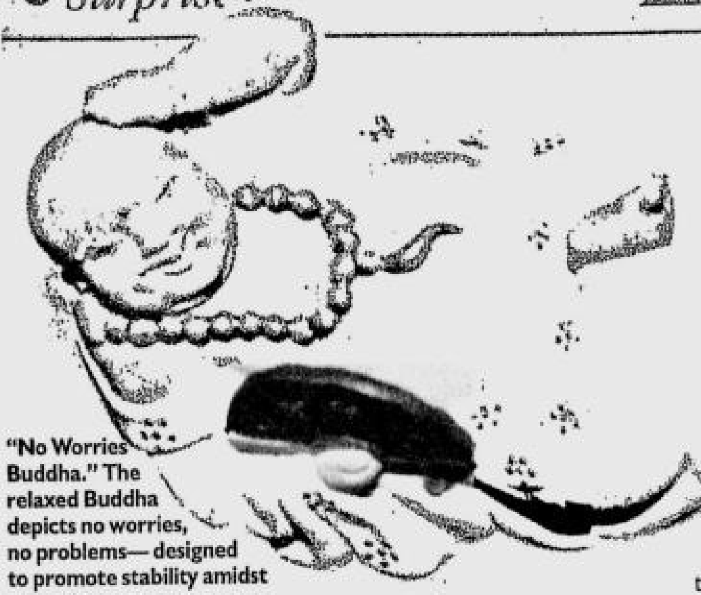
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LifeStyle

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005 C1

Text your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



"No Worries Buddha." The relaxed Buddha depicts no worries, no problems— designed to promote stability amidst obstacles.

Six years of luck

By Linda B. Bolido

IT may be hard to believe, but the Philippines is on a six-year lucky streak that started in 2004, according to Hong Kong-based geomancer Joseph Chau, feng shui consultant of Manila's Mandarin Oriental.

Chau says it is too early to feel the effects of this streak as it only started last year. And, of course, whether or not the Philippines is able to make the most of the good vibes and harness all the potentials that six years of good luck offer is another matter altogether.

The geomancer points, in particular, to tourism as an area that has to be highlighted during the six-year period. A lot of hard work has to be done to improve the country's image among potential visitors, he says.

Other fields that may have a good year are entertainment, casino and transportation.

Chau is back in Manila to participate in what has become a Mandarin tradition, the celebration of the Chinese New Year. To be marked Feb. 9 is the Year of the Yin Wooden Rooster.

Group welcome

The Chinese New Year, Chau says, should be welcomed with a large gathering. According to Chinese custom and feng shui practice, "being in a large gathering at the stroke of midnight (signaling the beginning of a new year) brings good and strong chi (life force), and portends good luck to those present."

Have pineapple, *suha*, orange (especially Mandarin), grapes and the big Dole banana on your dinner table on New Year's Day.

Other ways to make the new year auspicious include bathing in water with extracts of *suha* leaves before going to bed, wearing

SIX/C3

IN THIS ISSUE

FEELING blessed in the Year of the Rooster /C6

TIFFANY'S in book form /E1

VINTAGE-inspired finery /H1

ONE big orchid garden/J4

SMART TALK'N TEXT ₱1,000,000 TEXT CHALLENGE

Sino ang female lead star sa pelikulang PS I Love You?
A) Maricel Soriano
B) Sharon Cuneta
C) Alma Moreno

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QUIZ REG
Lito Reyes/
1920 Yakal St.,
Makati City

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373

Send to 373

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Answer the daily quiz questions for a chance to win in the daily and weekly draws!

Sino ang female lead star sa pelikulang PS I Love You?
A) Maricel Soriano
B) Sharon Cuneta
C) Alma Moreno

QUIZ B

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Php2.50 per message sent

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I ♥ SMART Simply Amazing!

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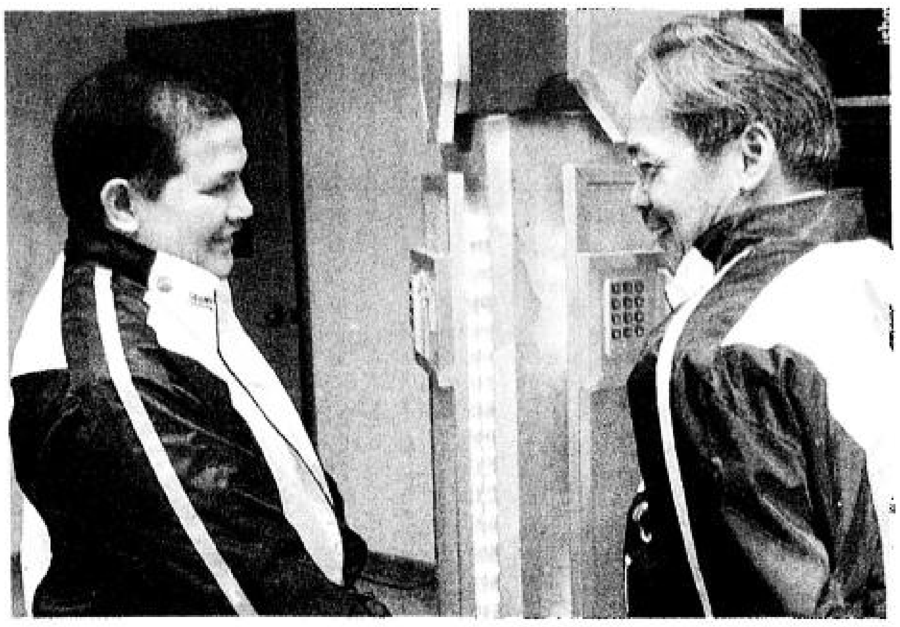
Promo period: January 15 to April 15, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0154. Series of 2005

ENGINEERING and Information Technology students of USJR flooded their auditorium to witness the launch.



SAN Jose Recoletos University president Rev. Fr. Constantino B. Real, OAR (left) and Globe Telecom head for public relations Jones T. Campos

Keeping students in tip-TAP shape

By Pam Pastor

IT cannot be denied. With technology developing at such a crazy pace, today's engineering courses need a major update. After all, schools must equip their graduates with knowledge about the latest technological advancements to ensure their readiness for global competition, so they can keep up with the fast-moving world.

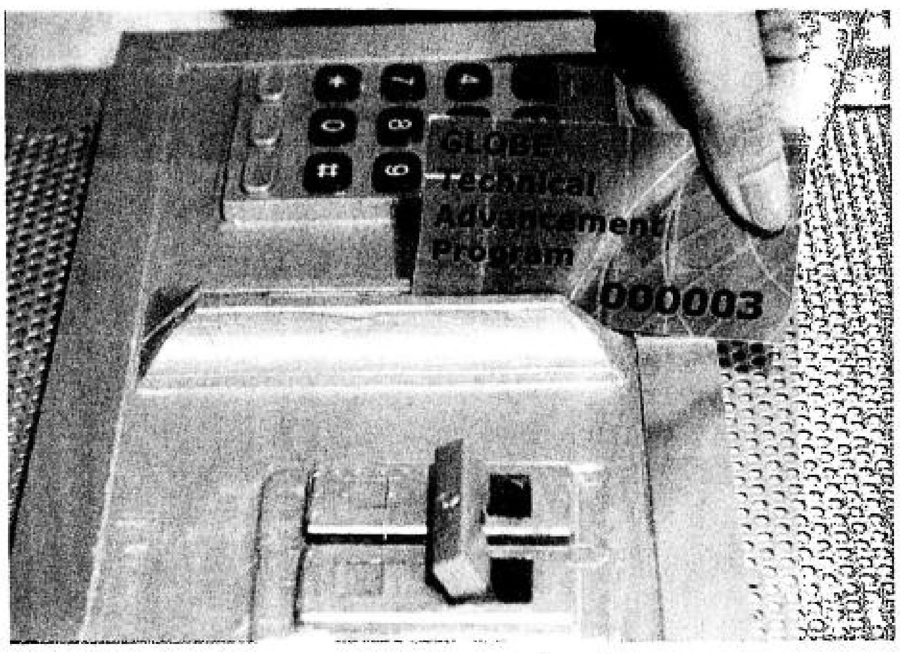
Globe Telecom realizes the significance of this need, and has launched a new corporate social responsibility project—the Globe Technical Advancement Program (GTAP).

This project, which encourages hands-on training in the classroom, is an industry-academe linkage program aiming to promote student excellence in science and engineering. It's the first time that a telco has given away full digital cellular technology to advocate educational advancement.

"Rapid technological development and exponential growth in the global telecommunication industry currently present exciting career opportunities for engineering students. Globe recognizes the need to prepare these students for challenges ahead by providing them with leading-edge knowledge and skills via direct involvement in real-world engineering projects such as a simulated GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network," says Gerry Ablaza, Globe president and CEO.

Proposals were sent to different universities known for quality engineering education—all of them declared centers of excellence by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The first to reply was the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City, which was founded in 1947 by the Order of Augustinian Recollects.

USJR's president, Rev. Fr. Constantino Real, OAR, says, "It's an opportunity for us to be able to give our students the hands-on experience of digital technology. It will be an edge or advantage on the part of our students."



THE HIGHLIGHT of GTAP's launch was the symbolic equipment fire-up and high-tech ribbon-cutting, which included lighting effects, simulated body scans, and security access cards.

Good reason

Earlier this month, just before the weekend of the Sinulog Festival, Globe Telecom launched GTAP in USJR. Over 1,500 engineering students gathered for the opening, and there was good reason for their enthusiasm.

Globe's GTAP has a lot to offer the university: GSM equipment and installation, curriculum development modules that will help incorporate basic GSM in the school's curriculum; training for faculty members so they can properly utilize the equipment, resource speakers for seminars on GSM technology from Globe and Nokia's pool of engineers and internship opportunities for graduating students.

Globe brought in a complete GSM cell site setup for the students of USJR to study—a Nokia BTS DE21, Microwave Transmission Equipment, Antenna System and Power System. This summer, the school's faculty will undergo training by Globe and Nokia engineers so that the new curriculum can be implemented next school year.

And in the future, graduating students from USJR will be given internship opportunities if they pass the requirements.

This year, Globe intends to implement the GTAP program in two other schools—preferably one in Mindanao and one in Luzon.

GTAP falls under the Globe Bridging Communities (Globe BridgeCom) umbrella. Its projects include Globe Ed TV, Globe Storybooks and other leadership and livelihood projects.

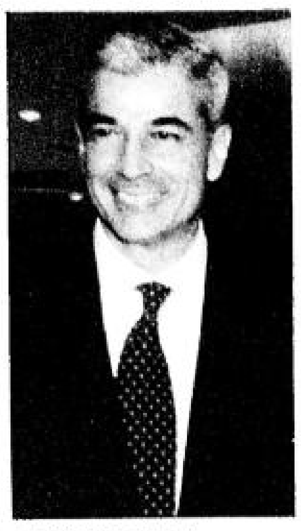
Jones Campos, who heads Globe's public relations, stresses that the partnership between GTAP and USJR is a long-term one. They're not stopping at just providing the technology, they will also continue supporting updates.

"So long as there is a need to improve and add on new learning for the students who are part of GTAP, Globe is sure to do that," he says.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

UNIVERSAL Motors Corp. president Richard Lee; UMC chair Wigberto Tañada; President Macapagal Arroyo; Elizabeth Lee, UMC senior vice president; Toshiyuki Shiga, senior vice president of Nissan Motor Company Japan; and Senate President Franklin Drilon

RAUL Concepcion of the Concepcion Industries



FERNANDO Zobel

50 and still zooming

THE ONLY 100-percent Filipino-owned automotive assembler and distributor in the Philippines, Universal Motors Corp. marked its 50th year last month at the Ayala Museum with President Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

The event was highlighted by donations given to civic and humanitarian projects of the ABS-CBN Foundation, Center for Community Transformation, Gawad Kalinga, GMA Kapuso Foundation, Missionaries of Charity, and WWF-Philippines.

Four ambulances were also officially turned over to the Philippine government.

Established in 1954, Universal Motors is headed by its president Richard Lee.

Lee, along with UMC chair Wigberto Tañada; Toshiyuki Shiga, senior vice president of Nissan Motor Company Japan; and Elizabeth Lee, UMC senior vice president, welcomed the 300 guests which included Senators Franklin Drilon and Edgardo Angara, Fernando and Kit Zobel, SM's Teresita Sy-Coson, and bankers XP Loinaz, Gigi Montinola and Edward Go.

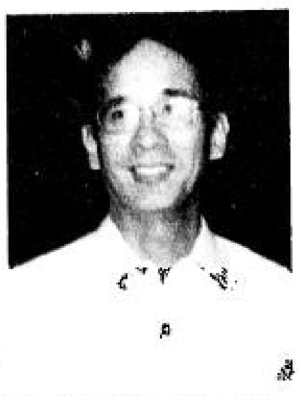
SUPREME Court Justice Artemio Panganiban and Senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

STEPHEN Roxas and Ruth Callanta of Center for Community Transformation

FR. Roberto La Torre of Missionaries of Charity

GINA Lopez, managing director of Bantay Kalikasan

JOSE Lorenzo Tan, president of WWF-Philippines



GIGI Montinola, Bank of the Philippine Islands president

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Six years of luck

From page C1

new underwear or sleeping attire and stomping the feet to shed all negative vibes.

Lucky colors for the Year of the Rooster are brown, beige, yellow, gold, white, green and black, but Chau says red is always auspicious especially on New Year's Day itself.

Unlucky colors are pure white, pure black and pure blue. For those who like jewelry, lucky stones/jewelry during the year are amber, gold, white amethyst, white crystal power bead, green crystal power beads, moon stone power beads, laughing Buddha, promotion pendant and tai suey protection pendant.

Chau has designed symbols and charms for good luck that are available at the Yin and Yang Shop of Harmony of the Mandarin.

The Year of the Rooster promises to be lucky for those born in the Year of the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Dragon, Horse, Monkey, Dog and Pig. Having been born in the Year of the Pig, this may be a good year for President Macapagal Arroyo.

Chau says that although the new year does not look very propitious for people born in the Years of the Rooster, Rabbit, Snake and Goat, this does not mean that they have to be resigned to a bad season. What actually happens will depend on other things like their birthdays and the elements associated with them. They can also ward off bad vibes with certain symbols and signs.

Mandarin celebration

The Mandarin's welcome of the Year of the Rooster begins at 11 p.m. of Feb. 8. A prosperity motorcade that will start from the hotel and will cover Paseo de Roxas, Ayala and Makati Avenues will feature a float, a convoy of Volvo cars, the Makati Public Safety Authority (Mapsa) band and the Mananayaw ng Makati.

Leading the motorcade are Mayor Jejomar Binay and Mandarin's general manager Helmut Gaisberger.

Other features of the celebration are a Paai-shan ceremony by Chau, lion and dragon eye-dotting ceremonies by guests of honor, dragon and lion dances, fireworks display and midnight buffet.

Supported by the Makati city government, the New Year's celebration is co-sponsored by 02, Smart Infinity, Volvo, Lifestyle Network, ANC, Cathay Pacific and The Excelsior, Hong Kong.

Mandarin offers special room packages for local residents wanting to participate in its traditional Chinese New Year celebration. Overnight-stay packages, starting at P6,588+ for a superior room, are inclusive of midnight dinner buffet at the ballroom for two adults, Paseo Uno breakfast for two, and complimentary copy of Chau's "Forecast for the Year of the Yin Wooden Rooster."

An additional night's stay will be charged P4,200+. Children below 12 years old (maximum of two) are free of charge when sharing a room with parents.

Other packages are: Deluxe Room, P6,888+; Business Room, P7,288+; and Junior Suite, P7,788+. At the exclusive Mandarin Oriental Club, the rate is P8,888+ for a Club Deluxe Room.

The midnight buffet dinner included in the packages features dishes symbolic of good health, family unit, wealth and fortune such as Roasted Crispy Duck, Winter Melon Soup with Dried Scallops, Fried Spring Rolls (Cantonese Style), Lo Hon Vegetables with Fat Choi (sea moss), Steamed Grouper with Bean Crumb Sauce, Pan-fried Tikoy, Chinese cookies and Deep-fried Sesame Balls.

Dinner is available to non-staying guests at P1,288+ (adult) and P888+ (child), inclusive of a complimentary copy of Chau's booklet and giveaways like *ampao* with gold coins.

Diners have a chance to win a trip to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific and a two-night stay at The Excelsior.

Mandarin's Tin Hau offers special a la carte and set menus until Feb. 24 that also feature auspicious dishes.

Mandarin Oriental is on Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 7508888.

GEOMANCER Joseph Chau in Yin and Yang Shop of Harmony at Mandarin Oriental

TREASURE Ox signifies the beginning of riches, and should be kept for the rest of the year to enhance wealth. The Chinese believe that to be wealthy, one has to first attain "one's first bucket of gold." This animal is compatible with the Rooster. Place it in the middle of the table along with offerings during Christmas and New Year, with treasure nuggets in the Ox's bucket.

Feng shui in February

THE PODIUM welcomes the Year of the Rooster with a Feng Shui Extravaganza this February.

"The rooster is known to announce the start of a brand new day, a fresh start," says Marites Allen, certified feng shui expert and owner of the World of Feng Shui boutique at The Podium's ground floor.

Allen, who underwent training with the world's most popular feng shui master, Lillian Too, notes, however, that "this is a year with no spring or *lap chun*, and traditionally, this is an indication of a weak year."

Applying feng shui can help counter and make up for these challenging circumstances. Allen recommends wearing this year's lucky colors (red, black and blue), giving out and carrying *angpow* and welcoming the new year with a big event to absorb a large amount of energy to last the year through.

Most of all she recommends five must-haves:

- A rooster figure or image in the west of the home to safeguard and protect the home;
- Period 8 birds that have been inscribed with the "infinity sign, bringing endless opportunities and luck, their bright red color strengthens the earth energy of Period 8, which enhances one's luck in matters of wealth";
- Astrological allies and secret friends (those born under the Tiger sign, for example, have the Pig as their secret friend and the Horse and the Dog as their allies);
- The Mystic Knot, which looks like the infinity sign trebled, brings everlasting health, wealth and happiness, worn as a pendant or an accessory for protection, longevity and good fortune; and
- The Money Wallet, in red for "wealth" and gold for "money" to help enhance one's financial outlook.

Allen will be giving astrological updates in the Feng Shui Extravaganza on Feb. 4 at The Podium's Lounge Area. Excerpts from the musicale "Flower Drum Song" will follow. Capping the festivities will be a Dragon Dance at the mall area at 11 a.m., Feb. 9.

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MON

Celebrating L

The freshest meat cuts can only come from th
the most awarded, year in and year out. Monterey.
provided Filipino families with meats that pass
Truly, Monterey's leadership has elevated its sig

A message from Her Excellency
on Monterey's 36th Anniversary

I greet the entire Monterey Foods family on the occasion of your 36th Anniversary.

Monterey's leadership in the local meat processing Industry is undoubtedly the result of hard work, good management and emphasis on quality. Filipino consumers appreciate your guarantee of safety and quality in your products. Recognition is likewise in order for Monterey's contribution in providing employment and livelihood opportunities to our people through the only fully integrated operations in the country.

May you commit to sustain your winning ways and contribute more to the national economy. Indeed, corporations such as Monterey are important stakeholders in our quest to beat the odds towards development. By endeavoring to expand your operations, more of our people will have access to quality meat products while jobs and livelihood opportunities will open. It is in this context that I wish you more fruitful years ahead.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

SIGNED
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

A message from the Secretary
of the Department of Agriculture
on Monterey's 36th Anniversary

Warmest greetings to Monterey Foods Corporation for 36 years of providing consumers with fresh, safe and quality meats.

As the country's largest hog and cattle operator, Monterey is acknowledged as the industry standard, in terms of products and services. And, indeed, it has consistently delivered meat products and services at par with the world's best.

Through its nationwide franchise operations, the company has succeeded in creating job and livelihood opportunities for many Filipinos. Specifically it continues to contribute in creating a vibrant agricultural sector, particularly a productive and competitive livestock industry. Such is the magnitude of Monterey's stake in national economic growth and development.

Thus, on behalf of the Department of Agriculture I commend the management and staff of Monterey for continuing efforts to providing consumers the best value for quality meat products.

Congratulations and more power!

Mabuhay ang Monterey!

SIGNED
ARTHUR C. YAP
Secretary

A message from the Executive
Director of the Department of
Agriculture National Meat
Inspection Services on Monterey's
36th Anniversary

I wish to extend my cordial greetings to Monterey Foods Corporation on the occasion of its Anniversary Celebration. The whole DA-NMIC family is with you in celebrating 36 years of committed service to the Filipino people.

Monterey Foods Corp deserves due commendations for continuing to be an ally of the government in promoting the welfare of the consuming public who deserve the best quality meat and meat products. I also want to congratulate you for being a cut above the rest by diligently adopting standards and procedures such as the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point that further ensures the safety and quality of your products.

As you chalk up more years in your history, may you consistently be proficient and efficient in delivering meat and meat products and services to the people. Likewise, may you continue to set the example for an ideal meat establishment that others can emulate. You definitely deserve the Seal of Excellence Award that we have recently given in the Search for Best Meat Establishment.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

SIGNED
EFREN C. NUESTRO
Executive Director

A message from the Chairman of
San Miguel Corporation
on Monterey's 36th Anniversary

Ever since Monterey Foods Corporation made history by being the first to brand meat products in the Philippines, it has continued to attract a growing base of loyal and satisfied consumers who are assured of quality meats for every meal. Truly, on its 36th year, Monterey meat products are now part of everyday Filipino life.

That wealth of experience certainly shows in the way Monterey does business – from its "farm to market" expertise, its multi-awarded facilities that guarantee consumers fresh and safe meat products, its innovative, great tasting value-added meat products to its highly-trained and friendly Monterey Meatshop personnel.

At Monterey Foods Corporation, creating the greatest value, product or service is a continuing commitment. Congratulations Monterey Foods Corporation for 36 years of leadership, quality and innovation.

SIGNED
EDUARDO M. COJUANGCO, JR.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
San Miguel Corporation

A message from the President of
San Miguel Corporation on
Monterey's 36th Anniversary

Monterey Foods Corporation was the first manufacturer of branded fresh meats to expand into franchising operations – providing opportunities for entrepreneurship, and consumer access to convenient, safe, clean and quality basic meats.

From four franchised neighborhood meatshops in 1990, there are now over 300 Monterey outlets nationwide – distributing quality meats to Filipinos from Luzon to Mindanao.

This growth over the years owes much to the continuing and loyal patronage of the Filipino consumer.

And so on its 36th anniversary, Monterey Foods Corporation and its growing family of franchisees commit to provide Filipino families with world-class meat products and efficient service so that we continue to be your best choice in the future.

SIGNED
RAMON S. ANG
Vice-Chairman, President and COO
San Miguel Corporation

A message from the Secretary of the
Department of Trade and Industry
on Monterey's 36th Anniversary

Our warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the management and staff of Monterey Foods Corporation as you celebrate your 36th Anniversary.

The company has much to be proud of in its 36 years of operations. Over this period Monterey has blazed an outstanding record of service to the Filipino consumers by providing high quality and safe meat products to Filipino families.

Monterey's fully-integrated operations enable it to uphold high quality standards in all stages of production, thereby assuring consumers of high quality products. As a pioneer in the manufacture of branded fresh meat that has expanded into franchise operations nationwide, the company has not only given consumers ready access to fresh and high quality meat but has also created opportunities for entrepreneurship and livelihood all over the country.

Maturing at the age of 36 could not have been an easy task for any company to attain, and to have reached this stage, it must have taken Monterey a lot of hard work, professionalism, dedication, and commitment to customer service. I hope that Monterey will continue to strive for excellence in the coming years and continue to share with the DTI the common vision of promoting consumer welfare.

Again, on behalf of the whole DTI family, I convey our best wishes to Monterey Foods Corporation. May you continue to grow and serve the needs of the Filipino consumers.

Mabuhay!

SIGNED
CESAR V. PURISIMA
Secretary

Monterey – The Biggest in the Philippines

A 1,200-hectare cattle land in Isabela became the birthplace of Monterey Foods Corporation. Years later, in 1980, it became a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation. And as part of the Philippines' largest food and beverage company, Monterey was progressively transformed into what it is today: the country's biggest pork and beef company, boasting of the biggest farm with the largest number of hog and cattle operations and with the latest technology in feed milling, breeding, livestock raising, slaughtering and meat retailing.

Hogs and cattle raised in the Monterey farm produce tender meats since the animals are imported breeds that have been subjected to meticulous growing and feeding practices. Only high quality breeds of hogs and carefully selected cattle from Australia make up the Monterey stock. It is then fed and fattened only with meticulously monitored top-of-the-line nutrition. To get the best meat, animals should have proper nutrition and medication, ensuring lean meats that are firm and not soft, their fibers fine-grained and not watery with a pinkish, rosy hue. To improve meat tenderness, the animals are rested just prior to processing to prevent muscles from becoming tough and dry due to stress. This means leaner, better quality meats.

Monterey's Seal of Excellence

Monterey meat goes through a process that has passed the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System. The HACCP is an international, preventive quality management system designed to identify and prevent any potential hazards in the food. For a food company to earn the right to implement the HACCP system, it must consistently pass the internationally accepted measures of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Standard Sanitation Operating Procedures (SSOP). A remarkable program for Premises, Equipment, Personnel, Transportation and Storage, Sanitation and Pest Control and Recalls must also be in place. All these are integrated in Monterey's operations.

And with its operations running under such strict international measures, it is therefore not surprising for Monterey to be adjudged by the Department of Agriculture - National Meat Inspection Services (NMIS) as the Best and Cleanest Slaughterhouse in the Triple A Category.

Also in the "AAA" Category, Monterey has consistently received the Best and Cleanest Slaughterhouse award thus elevating the company to the prestigious Hall of Fame. As a result of these recognitions, Monterey was given the Best Meat Establishment award by the NMIS in 2004 with the revered Seal of Excellence, thus becoming the first and only Philippine meat company to earn such distinction.

From the farm to the market, the Monterey meat goes through the strictest quality and freshness monitoring system. Monterey pork and beef have gone through an advanced blast-chilling process right after slaughter so bacterial growth is neutralized and freshness and nutrition is locked in. From Monterey's strategically located facilities, the high grade meats are then delivered by a fleet of refrigerated Monterey trucks. Chill temperatures are maintained throughout the cold chain system to preserve the freshness, nutritive values and eating quality of the meat.

The Consumers' Choice

Without question, the name Monterey is an automatic guarantee of safety and superior quality. No wonder it is the choice brand of local consumers. From homemakers to culinary experts, Filipinos have come to trust Monterey.

And it is this consumers' trust that has earned for Monterey the coveted National Shopper's Choice Award in 2003 and 2004. Such recognition plus Monterey being a subsidiary of the San Miguel Corporation take the guarantee of superiority even a notch further.

ORK/BEEF CUBES
LAMB CHOP
MONTEREY Me

For GMA only: ONE NUMBER DELIVERY 633 -

Monterey Meatshops are available in key cities in Luzon, Visayas a

For more information on Monterey go to: http://montereyfoods.com

NTEREY®

eadership at 36

**e name that has earned the distinction of being
For almost four decades, Monterey has continuously
the strictest international standards of quality.
nature freshness to what it is now: second to none.**

310 Outlets and Still Counting

Monterey's network of outlets now boasts of 110 stand-alone shops and 200 more in supermarket meat counters. Customers are bound to find one outlet where they can always conveniently go to.

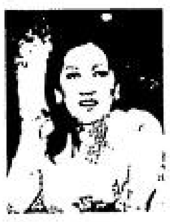
The Monterey outlets are modern, friendly one-stop meat shops that offer a wide selection of grade A pork, beef and lamb and an array of complementary products for the customers' utmost convenience. The Monterey Meatshop runs a well-developed meat retailing operation that is of international standards, from its cold chain management to its butchering techniques. And at the very core of every Monterey Meatshop is a dedicated crew of butchers and merchandisers specially trained at the Monterey Meat School – to assure customers of courteous, efficient and personalized service.

For the meat shop's adherence to superior service, the Monterey Meatshop received the Philippine Business Excellence Award in 2004, recognizing Monterey as the Number 1 Premium Meat Shop.

Franchising with One of the Top Retailers in the Country

From four meatshops to more than a hundred. Monterey continues to beef up its network of outlets by opening its meat shop to franchising. Across the country, Monterey extends its invitation to local entrepreneurs to be a part of its commitment to provide the widest variety of the freshest quality meats to the Filipino family.

And many have heeded the call. Ina Ticzon, Senior Vice President of Belco Marketing Inc., took the invitation to franchise and is now reaping the fruits of Monterey's success. Unmindful of the existing competition inside Harrizon Plaza, she went ahead with her Monterey Meatshop and has since expanded her operations to meet the demands of her growing clientele. *"By joining the Monterey Franchising System, you get a proven operation system of meat retailing. You also get a tremendous help from experts in the business: trainers, specialists, money and operations people"*, declares Ina.

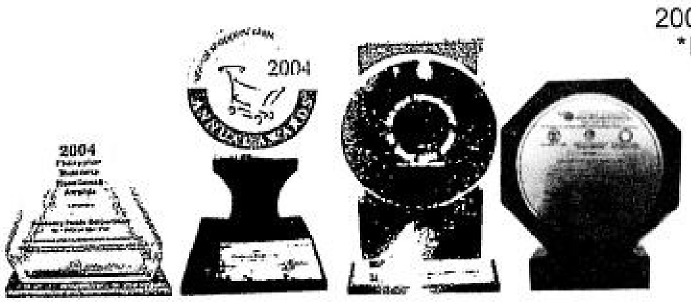


Ina Ticzon
Senior Vice President
of Belco Marketing Inc.

Anyone can enjoy the same success as Ina's. With the name Monterey behind the franchise, freshness and healthy returns are guaranteed to be within one's reach.

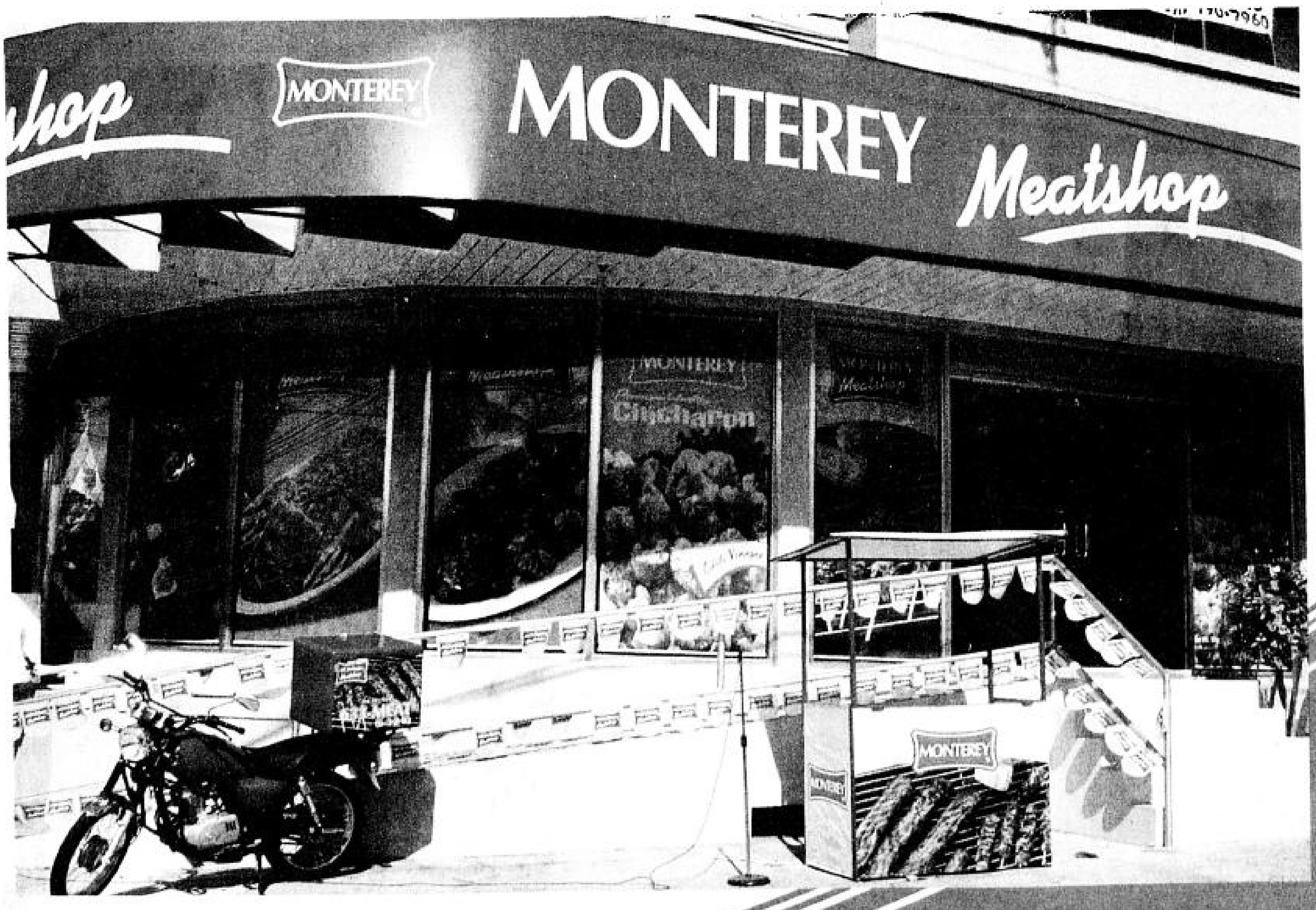
Simply the Best

Let these awards speak for themselves:
*National Shopper's Choice Award, 2003 & 2004
*Philippine Business Excellence Award 2004, recognizing Monterey as the Number 1 Premium Meatshop
*Best and Cleanest Meat Plant in the "AAA" Slaughterhouse Category, 2003
*Best Meat Establishment, awarded by the Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Services in 2004, making Monterey Meat Plant the first and only meat establishment in the country given this Seal of Excellence.



2004 Unveils a New Look

Monterey Meatshop welcomes its consumers with a fresh look in 2004. Soon, all outlets will sport the more vibrant façade and the new signage that still carries the proud name of Monterey. The face may have changed but Monterey's commitment to freshness and quality remains.



Monterey continuously strives to provide Filipinos with excellent meat by controlling quality from farm to meat retailing operations. As the number one meat producer and retailer in the country, the harmony of multi-awarded systems and operations never ends. And so on every single day, the freshest delivery of the freshest meats is what your family can count on.

MEAT (6328)
nd Mindanao

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SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

SECONDARY sponsors. Cookie Guerrero, Erlyn Campos, Marian Zapanta, Jon Aboitiz, Chito Legarda and Jaime Ugarte

HAPPY celebration. Eileen, Caren, Candice, Angi and Alexa Grey with Gaudette Bacalso, Tonichi Grey, Henry Zabarte, Tonichi Tuason, Vincent Grey and Bolo Tuason

Despite Rooster's omens, we feel blessed

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

TOP stage actors Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo and Monique Wilson

"OH, Romeo!" cast. Michael Williams, Pinky Amador and Miguel Faustmann with director Joy Virata

WITH THE CHINESE New Year just around the corner, it's difficult not to get into the whole hullabaloo about feng shui and fortune-telling in the Year of the Rooster. As we shake off the bad luck that ended the Year of the Monkey, we can only hope for better chi coming.

My most unforgettable day this month (and hopefully this whole year) was the day my emotions went haywire, from pure joy to hypertension to stress to sheer gratefulness. Jan. 19 was a triple loop on the emotional roller coaster.

First, it was the seventh birthday of my little girl **Annika**. Secondly, it was also the same day I had my ultrasound with **Dr. Luz Lacuna-Tamayo**, not to confirm the gender of what I hope will be a baby girl but to have a genetic test for her. Finally, it was also the day that my husband, **Dennis**, while on a business trip to India, got involved in a helicopter crash.

I started my usual daily schedule with noon Mass, together with Annika who joined me from school. After a quick bite in my fave spaghetti place, Pancake House, I headed to have my genetic ultrasound. I told the pretty lady doctor not to tell me my baby girl's gender, as I am planning a "Guess the Sex" party instead of the usual baby shower. I personally believe showers are just for virgin, er... first-time moms.

After convincing the doctor that my baby is a girl, though she did put a question mark over the baby name Athena, we went on to a serious discussion as to whether my baby was healthy, normal and complete (and possibly with blonde and blue eyes!). Getting two thumbs up from her was such a relief. A mother carrying a child at my age is considered a high-risk case, so I knew my novena prayers were working full-time.

> Despite what geomancers say about the Year of the Rooster, positive doses of gratefulness should make 2005 twice blessed

I shared my joy with Dennis through SMS since he was in India meeting with an ink company. But from my ecstatic state, I suddenly got a phone call from Dennis telling me that he was okay, but his helicopter had just crash-landed! Still groggy from pain, his first instinct had been to call, but the line was almost immediately cut.

MUSICAL clan. Rajo Laurel, Celia Laurel and son Cocoy

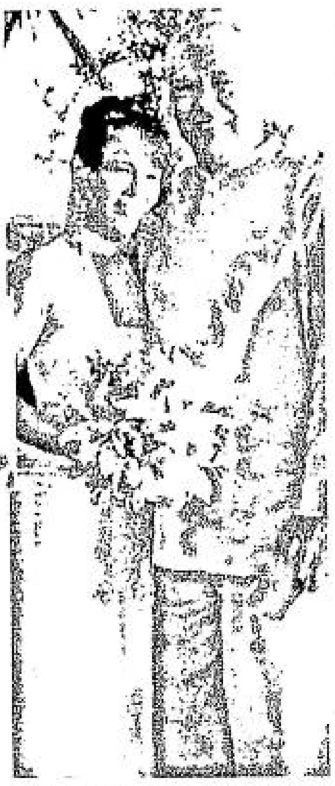
ALLIANCE partners of the three-year project. Acting US deputy chief of mission Scott Bellard, KCh executive director Rina Lopez Bautista, former mayor and TOYM award recipient Daty Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas II, USAID Chato Calderon and USAID chief of education Thomas J. Kral

Accident

The accident happened on their landing when the rear rotor blade hit the ground and broke off, causing the helicopter to spin and crash. The four Filipino passengers were relatively okay but the pilot was still in critical condition and had not regained consciousness.

Dennis has a fracture in his lower back that needs complete bed rest for a month and therapy for another few months. Always true optimists, we've talked about how this is actually perfect timing with my delivery. The important thing for him is that he will be able to play golf and underwater hockey in four months.

Incidents like this make everyone more appreciative of life and more grateful with daily blessings. The numerous prayers from family and friends are so comforting and supportive. Though there were different versions of the incident in the texts being passed around, they all showed concern. We have been receiving prayers from all orders of the Catholic sector plus positive energies from my yoga buddies.


SILVER wedding couple Herman and Ginajane Grey

Life indeed should be celebrated, even in the most minuscule manner.

Arab-style anniversary

Just like a wedding anniversary, for instance. Being married is not an easy task so reaching one's silver anniversary is an accomplishment. My expressive dance guru, **Ginajane Grey**, and her dashing husband, **Herman**, celebrated 25 years of wedded bliss in an Arabian-style garden dinner in the lush Lake Island Resort in Binangonan, Rizal. Set among giant acacia trees and surrounded by a lake, the garden landscape was converted into a magical night of colorful festivities. Southern belle Ginajane had guests like **Jon Aboitiz** (one of the original sponsors then) from Cebu join the joyous occasion.

I have fond memories of this resort with **Eileen Grey**, a diving/drinking buddy, especially in the early days of my relationship with Dennis. Life seemed more carefree and wild then. Though over 10 years have gone by, the place is just as enchanting as ever.

Spa islands

Since traveling abroad is already getting difficult for me, vacationing locally is my only option. Lake Island is a great restful weekend place. Another is The Farm in San Benito. At the magazine launch of AsiaSpa at the Tower Club, Philippine spas were featured in their January issue, which made me impressed with the serene resort spas throughout the country like the Mandala Spa in Boracay Island.

Another must-see place for me is Mindanao. I was recently invited to the launch of Knowledge Channel Foundation in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao. This place fascinates me because I would get to mingle with real-life Datu and Bai royalty. This will be my chance to visit more places in Mindanao.

BELLY and Flamenco classmates. Stella Aguila, Ann Hofer, Maryanne Lumen, Ana Buenaventura and Jojo Zabarte

AT THE AsiaSpa cocktails, Alex Groizard of Taal Vista Hotel, Beni Gomez,Urban Spa's Irene Ibanez and Olivier Burlot

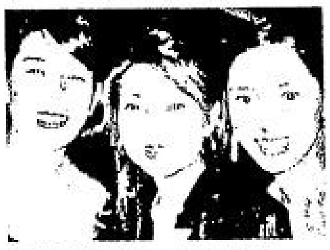
My novena partner **Rosan Cruz** told me that the formerly war-torn town has completely been transformed into an economic zone with former Muslim rebels now working with top-grossing banana exporter La Frutera. This was made possible by the vision of Muslim royal and TOYM recipient **Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas**. The evening before the formal launch of KCFI TEAM Mindanao (i.e. TV Education for the Advancement of Muslim-Mindanao), his sister **Bai Norah Paglas** hosted a full regalia dinner in her hilltop residence complete with a cultural dance.

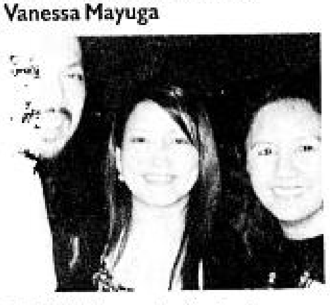
After Maguindanao, they went to General Santos and had the opportunity to visit the world-class fish port facility and witness the early morning unloading of the tuna catch. KCFI prez **Rina Lopez-Bautista** felt like a dwarf next to a 60-kg tuna.

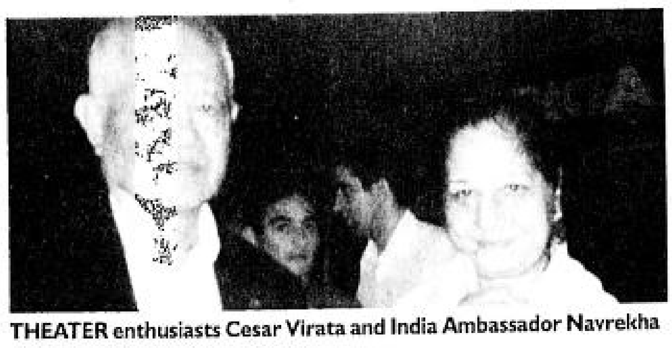
There are really a lot of places to discover in our beautiful Philippines, but you don't have to go far. In the city alone, there are things to see and things to do. For instance, do try to catch the final performance of Repertory Philippines' "Oh Romeo!" at Onstage Theater in Greenbelt. It seems like there's renewed energy in theater with the combination of **Pinky Amador-Michael Williams-Miguel Faustmann** under the direction of **Joy Virata**.

Energized with some positive doses of gratefulness, I can only look forward to a more exciting and fulfilling Year of the Rooster, especially with my little bundle of joy coming.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.


GORGEOUS spa ladies Pinky Kalaw and Christine Divinagracia of SuriyaSpa and Luxasia's Vanessa Mayuga


BEAUTY experts. Dr. Joel Mendez, Cathy Velez, Cathy Palma


THEATER enthusiasts Cesar Virata and India Ambassador Navrekha Sharma

GROUP photo with Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas II (standing in the center) with Knowledge Channel, media and La Frutera employees

ROYAL host of the evening Bai Norah Paglas (third from right) with guests Bai Henrietta Sinsuat, Domini Torrevillas, Doreen Yun, Bai Shalimar Candao and Rosan Cruz

GENERAL Santos Mayor Pedro Acharon poses with Rina Lopez-Bautista beside a 60-kg tuba at the fishing port.

School begins college programs 2005-2006

THE INSTITUCION Teresiana de Educacion Y Cultura Inc. or ITEC, which runs the Poveda Learning Center (PLC or Poveda), has announced the opening of its collegiate program for 2005-2006.

Beginning this coming school year, ITEC will offer degree courses in education and management, at the same Poveda campus on Edsa. The college program aims to produce professionals who are competent and globally competitive, but also socially and morally responsible.

ITEC hopes to help meet the growing demand for quality teachers here and abroad through its education/teacher training program. On the other hand, its management course seeks to train exemplary managers and business leaders.

Consistent with Poveda's unique approach to education, the core of the ITEC tertiary curriculum is the Personalized Education Program (PEP), an open system allowing students to be the best that they can be at their own pace. The result is a student-focused, hands-on training that also fosters interaction among teachers and students.

PEP also integrates spiritual formation into the learning process to strengthen the students' spiritual and moral fiber, and a deep adherence to Christian tenets.

A first in the Philippines, ITEC's education and management courses will use Whole Brain Literacy and Systems Thinking in their curricula. The management program will emphasize organization and management as a human social system, while the education course will expose students to the classroom setting right on the first day of school.

ITEC's full-time faculty are doctorate and master's degree holders. Students will have complete access to the school's state-of-the-art library, computers as well as recreation and support facilities and amenities inside the nearly three-hectare Poveda/PLC campus.

The PLC campus is highly accessible, located at the heart of the Ortigas business district, between Quezon City and Mandaluyong City, and close to Makati.

ITEC's college courses are open to both male and female high school graduates. Call 6318756-58, 6352698 or e-mail efp@newgen.net.ph.

Ms & Mr. CEU 2005 crowned

Ms. and Mr. CEU 2005

MARIE Elaine Corinne Maceda, a senior at Centro Escolar University's College of Optometry, and Niño Leo Miranda, a Computer Science senior from the School of Accountancy, Management and Technology, were recently proclaimed Ms & Mr. CEU 2005 in glittering rites at the CEU North Quadrangle.

The annual Ms and Mr. CEU search identifies campus models of excellence, with emphasis on good values. It aims to develop and strengthen qualities and traits that a model CEU student should have, promote well-roundedness among CEU students, make students globally competitive, and identify models of excellence within the university.

This year's Board of Judges, headed by top fashion designer Frederick Peralta, included CEU board member Tootsy Echauz-Angara, CEU vice president for finance and corporate information officer Patricia B. Echauz, fashion designer Dennis Lustico, "Wish Ko Lang" executive producer Melo Esguerra, television director Lino Cayetano, movie and TV director Joel Lamangan, Binibining Pilipinas Universe 2004 Maricar Balagtas and Bb. Pilipinas International 2004 Margaret Ann Bayot.

Overall chair of the event was CEU assistant VP for student affairs Claire Z. Manalo.

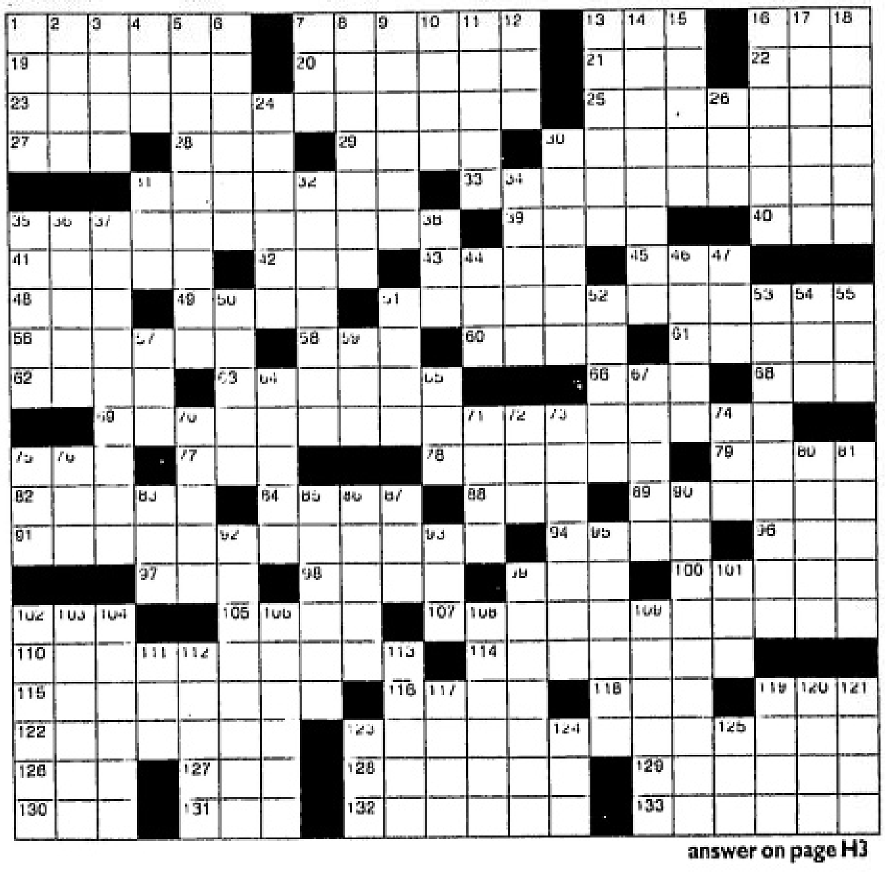
The top five contestants include Kristel Mae Supan, University Student Council, and Julius Marzan, College of Medical Technology, Ms & Mr. CEU 4th runners-up; Jonna Parungao, School of Science, and Alwyn Chua, College of Optometry, Ms & Mr. CEU 2nd runners-up; Maceda and Miranda; Elizabeth Jacquiline Nacuspag, Association of Tourism Students, and Von Aaron Mauleon, School of Education, Liberal Arts, Music and Social Work, Ms & Mr. CEU 1st runners-up; Joana Marie Milanes, Junior Philippine Computer Society, and Paolo Paciente, School of Tourism, Family Economics, Nutrition and HRM, Ms & Mr. CEU 3rd runners-up.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

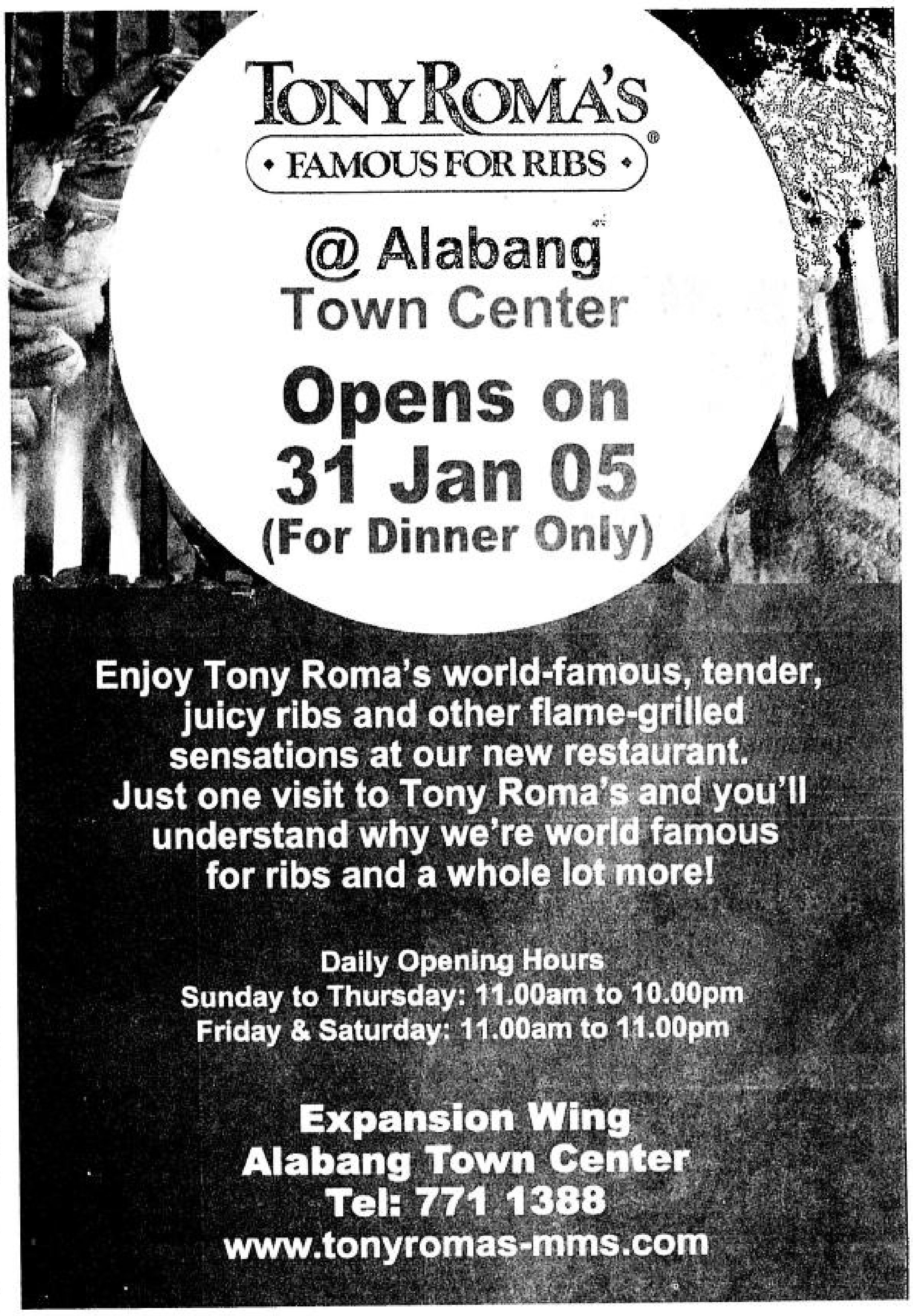
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo **SUPPLEMENT**

ACROSS
1 Period of reduced productivity
7 Good for something
13 D.C.'s — Stadium
16 Bear, in Bilbao
19 One who banishes
20 Florida baseballer
21 Before, in poems
22 — canto (singing style)
23 "Cats" activity?
25 Pool area avoided by a nonswimmer
27 Explosive stuff
28 — alai
29 Record
30 Directly up, on a map
31 Steno's need
33 Stupid hat?
35 Like a bird with equine feet?
39 Leaning Tower locale
40 "King" Cole
41 Sends forth
42 Suffix with press
43 Crazy
45 Cut off
48 "Sense and Sensibility" director Lee
49 Quaker product
51 Leg bone's essential quality?
56 Equates
58 Pittsburgh sch. famous for its computer science program
60 "— go bragh!"
61 Touchy- —
62 Feminine address
63 Comment after being insulted
66 "So that's your game!"
68 Give a new hue
69 Thin biscuit with a really long shelf life?
75 Monkey in "Aladdin"
77 Skirt bottom
78 Voids
79 Disentangles
82 Kidney-related
84 Shamu, e.g.
88 Sailor's org.
89 Nova Scotia, once
91 Overwhelm Scorsese with noise?
94 — -tat
96 Actor Aykroyd
97 Chorus syllable
98 Horse color
99 "Wham!"
100 General course
102 New jet of 1968
105 Cry of relief
107 "The Wolf Man" star who's a criminal?
110 Annelid imitated a dog?
114 Shot a gun again
115 Pill-making giant
116 Sicilian spewer
118 "Waking — Devine"
119 Architect I.M. —
122 Corrupted
123 Least number of Teutons?
126 Building wing
127 Cow call
128 Classroom clearer
129 Wrinkle-resistant fabric
130 TV's "Science Guy"
131 — Arbor, MI
132 "— Rides Again"
133 Most artful

DOWN
1 Exited
2 Yoked beasts
3 Droop
4 Yale student
5 "O rare" English playwright
6 Inhalation
7 Thurman of Hollywood
8 New Mexico's capital
9 Pinball place
10 Radar spot
11 Like legal paper
12 Part of the U.K.
13 Names anew
14 Thrill for a parachutist
15 New Hampshire city
16 Fairy king
17 Nissan model
18 Quite trite
24 Become extinct
26 Pea holder
30 Composer Shostakovich
31 Louse egg
32 BMW alternative
34 Willing to try
35 Domain
36 "— vincit amor"
37 Top dog
38 34th U.S. pres.
44 Rosemary Clooney's "Botch- —"
46 The Rolling Stones' "Get — My Cloud"
47 Flaky dessert
50 Digression
51 Wrath
52 Wise as —
53 Very ill, perhaps
54 Bridge expert Culbertson
55 Whiskey type
57 Big bird
59 Mire
64 Keaton-Garr film
65 Chai, e.g.
67 Attacks
70 N.Y. Ranger, e.g.
71 Faulkner's "Requiem for —"
72 "ER" roles
73 Slidable car part
74 Period
75 Suffix with drunk
76 Busy buzzer
80 Sawyer of TV news
81 Like beaches
83 Astern
85 Thin out
86 "Gladiator" star
87 — loss
90 Big church
92 Waterloo loser
93 Gershwin's "Concerto —"
95 Storefront shader
99 Crowd- —
101 "Awesome!"
102 Ikea's home
103 Exclusively
104 Toy (with)
106 "Just a sec"
108 Singer Tubb
109 Beliefs
111 Nero's 1,051
112 Mrs. Flintstone
113 Plow maker
117 "— brillig . . ."
119 Peel
120 Grandson of Eve
121 Ain't right?
123 Nurtured
124 Go for it
125 Sprint rival



answer on page H3



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Vicky Claparols & Pamela Valdes

Tessa Prieto-Valdes with the Hub Trons

Sari Yap, Miriam Quiambao & Lorraine Belmonte

Firma's Chito Vijandre (left) & Ricky Toledo (3rd from left), Globe's Raya Roa-Gonzalez with Gianna Montinola, Wynn Wynn Ong & Bea Valdes

Globe Platinum unveils fashion innovations in Dreamstyles

Globe Platinum unveiled Dreamstyles with an exquisite cocktail treat. A special caviar menu and cheese selection blended to perfection with the choice beverage for the evening. Alize Royale and Perrier Jouet Belle Epoque Champagne.

In fashion-forward mode, Globe Platinum delivers another style and mobile technology coup. It has partnered with FIRMA, the venue for fine art and design in Greenbelt 3, to present style innovations by Wynn Wynn Ong, Bea Valdes and Nokia. The concept is built around "dreamstyles," championed by Firma's Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre, as the ultimate lifestyle that "incorporates the stuff that dreams are made of."

The Dreamstyles launch, held at the Zen Gardens of Greenbelt 4, melded artistic design with the vitality of mobile technology.

Wynn Wynn Ong's jewelry collection played up the juxtaposition of the natural and the man-made, and the fusion of rare finds and readily available materials. Bea Valdes, on the other hand, looks back on the snazzy age of jazz as she looks to icon Josephine Baker for inspiration for her exquisite bags.

Globe Platinum and the Hub treated guests to its own version of artistic elegance and iconic style, by proudly offering a preview of Nokia's fashion savvy phones that go perfectly with Dreamstyles. The Nokia 7260's sleek and bold style reflects a powerful and distinctive character. With art deco-based design and flamboyant glittery color, it merges the hi-tech with high style. The true fashionista will delight in its clothing and shoe size converter feature. For the flashy impulsive design enthusiast is the Nokia 7270 - a flip phone that coordinates changeable and matching textile wraps with elegant graphics and voice-integrated functions. The Nokia 7270 makes it easy for any style subscriber to express herself freely, with its thematic style packs that include phone pouches and phone enhancements such as finger straps and fashion stereo headsets. The Nokia 7280 is a sleek, slide phone that integrates a Navi-spinner and a wildly glamorous mirror finish with a VGA camera as well as an internal handsfree speaker.

Globe Platinum features the exquisite, one-of-a-kind Wynn Wynn Ong jewelry, Bea Valdes couture bags and the chic Nokia 7260, 7270 & 7280

Guests delighted in a preview of the masterful creations displayed amidst a bed of foliage, representing what is new and invigorating in fashion and technology. Restaurateur and chef Margarita Fores crafted a special caviar cocktail menu served with a delectable cheese selection that earned oohs and ahs. As the evening rolled by, the UP Jazz Ensemble rendered a medley of upbeat classics and jazz standards, in tune to the lively conversation that hummed into the midnight.

The coming together of three great names in style - Globe Platinum, Firma and Nokia portends more innovative things to come in the world of style. Dreamstyles is but the first promise that style today can still remain true to form.

The Dreamstyles Collection is exclusively available at Firma while the Nokia 7260 and 7270 are now available at the Hub by Globe Telecom. Be first to experience the Nokia 7280 as it arrives soon at all Hub stores. Globe Platinum members may enjoy great privileges at both FIRMA and the Hub by Globe Telecom, with stores at Greenbelt 3, Glorietta 4, Rockwell Mall, Podium, and Greenhills.

Mary Ann Lumen, Ginny de Guzman & Annie Young

Celine Lopez & Tina Tinio

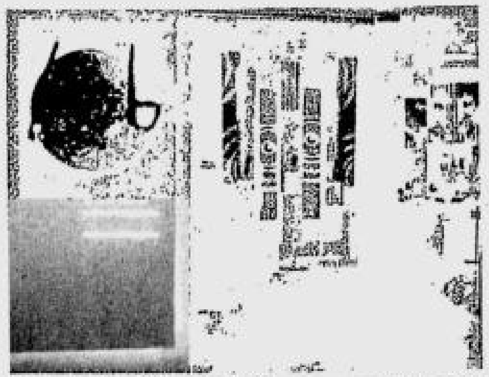
Lizanne Uychaco of Globe

Lizette Cojuangco & Mikey Cojuangco

Globe's Gracie Khoe and the Hub Trons with Anton San Diego (3rd from left)

Randy & Irene Francisco, Helen & Sonny Ong

The Hub Trons sporting a new look styled by Ivarluski Aseron


The Nokia 7260 and 7270 are now available at the Hub by Globe Telecom. Complete the fashion phone experience with the coming of the Nokia 7280, soon at the Hub.

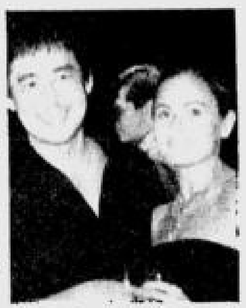
Nokia's Parikshit Bhasin (2nd from left) and Luanne Erni (4th from left) with JR Isaac & Myrza Sison

Marietta Cuyegkeng

Tats Manahan, Gemma Suzara & Margarita Delgado

Mons Tantoco & Anton Mendoza

Barbara Aboitiz


Raul Francisco & Joanna Preysler

Hub Tron, Ces Drilon & Jenni Epperson

Sharon Azanza & Wendy Puyat-Hotung

Nokia 7260
Nokia 7280
Nokia 7270

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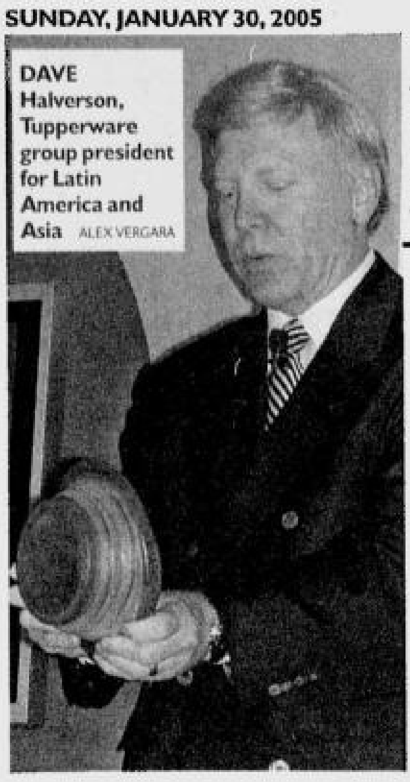


DAVE Halverson, Tupperware group president for Latin America and Asia ALEX VERGARA

Top this!

Tupperware unleashes the wave of the future —GoFlex!

KIDS love it

By Alex Y. Vergara

YOU'RE all familiar with such convenient and space-saving 20th-century devices as the folding umbrella and the collapsible bag. But have you ever come across a reusable and expandable food container made of heavy-duty plastic that's rigid yet flexible enough to assume several sizes in a matter of seconds?

It took Tupperware Corp., the world's leading manufacturer and direct seller of premium plastic containers, almost three years of intensive R and D to come up with one. In what was dubbed as the year's biggest Tupperware "party" in Asia, the Orlando-based company known for distributing its innovative products by encouraging its direct sellers to throw parties, launched recently GoFlex! at the New Asia Bar in Singapore.

"GoFlex! is innovative as its name implies," says Dave Halverson, Tupperware group president for Latin America and Asia Pacific. "Go means on the go, and flex means flexible not only in how it behaves but in how consumers can use it."

Together with David Kusuma, Tupperware VP for engineering and product development, Halverson led regional executives in introducing and explaining to members of the media the company's latest innovation that's said to border on the revolutionary.

If plastic was hailed as one of the top inventions of the 20th century, GoFlex! is said to take the development to the next level. After all, Tupperware started it all when it pioneered and introduced products for the home made of processed polyethylene more than 50 years ago. It has continued to expand and set trends ever since, growing into a $1.2 billion multinational company with a global presence that spans almost 100 countries.

In the Philippines alone, Tupperware is estimated to benefit 25,000 families through the business generated by its 66,000-strong sales force. Filipinos may not match the purchasing power of Japanese or Australians, but the country posted one of the biggest growth rates within the region last year at 24 percent.

This comes as no surprise despite competition posed by manufacturers of cheap imitations. One of Tupperware's strengths, says Halverson, is its ability to anticipate and respond to market needs.

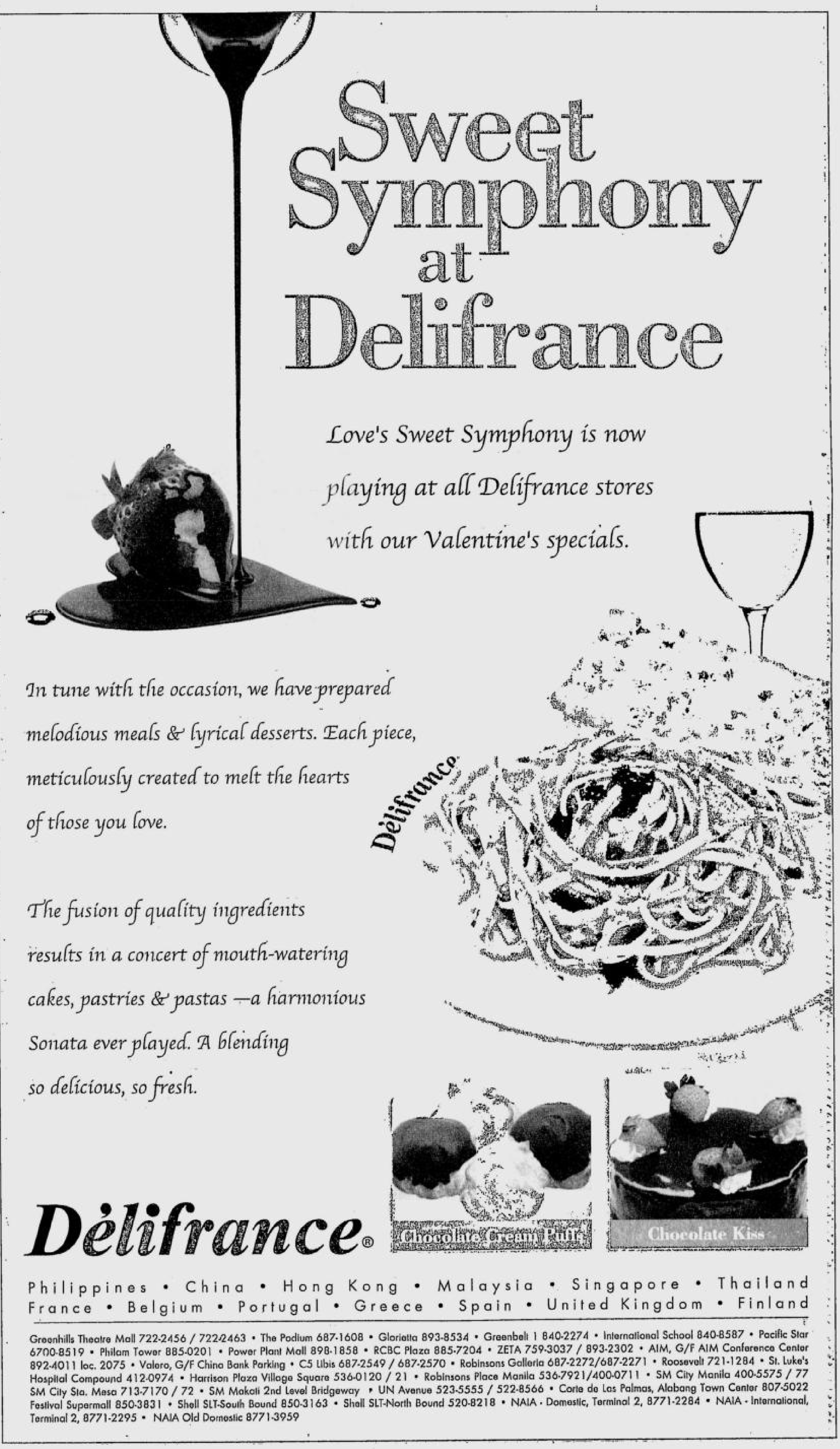
Thus, it offers lifestyle-related products exclusively to certain market segments. In India, for instance, the company has introduced a masala keeper. Of course, Koreans will find little use for such a product, so Tupperware instead came up with a kimchi keeper. In the Philippines, tableware made of break-resistant and elegant-looking melamine is doing well among party-loving Filipinos.

New and handy

While growth remains almost flat in North America and Europe, not a few Tupperware officials in Asia Pacific are looking forward to further gains in 2005. They're pinning their hopes on the publicity and increased business activity GoFlex! is expected to generate in the region.

TOP/D2

DAVID Kosuma, Tupperware VP for engineering and product development



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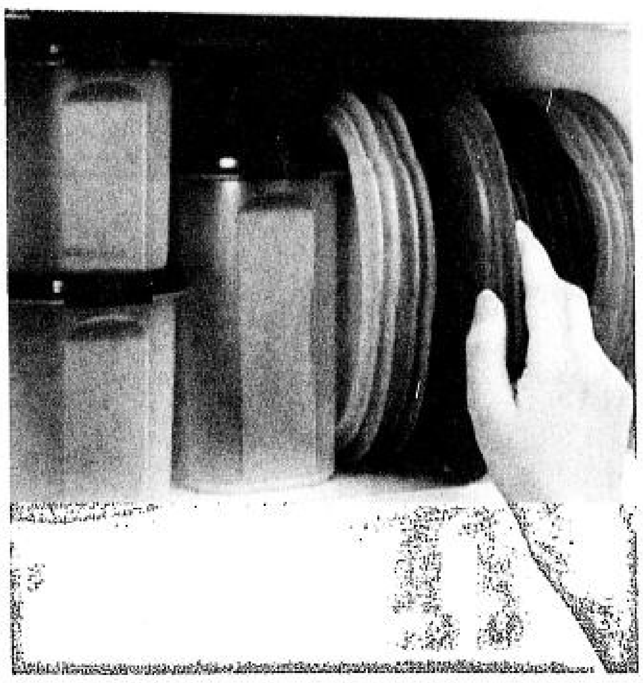
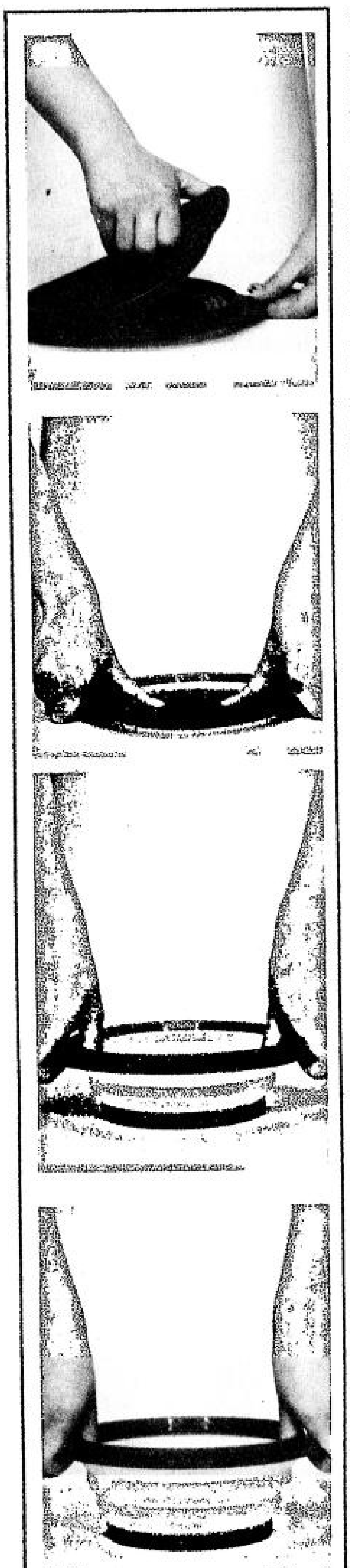
Top this!



SPACE-SAVING option

CONFORMS to available space in your refrigerator



POPPING GoFlex! is as easy as one, two, three, four.

From page D1

"GoFlex! is new, it's handy and it's practical," says Jose de Jesus Buenrosto, president of Tupperware Philippines Inc. "I'm pretty sure this will do well with Filipinos since they readily welcome innovations."

Each round container is priced at P499 and comes with an air- and water-tight lid to keep food fresh and prevent sauces and syrups from making a mess of your backpack or leaving an unpleasant scent behind. GoFlex! will be available locally starting February in four colors—Blueberry Mist, Vineyard, Hot Pepper and Pacific.

When it's flat, GoFlex! is a mere two-cm high, but don't let this stackable Frisbee-shaped container (which can really double as one!) fool you. Its ability to expand to three different heights enables the user to pack in a substantial 950 ml of food. That's certainly a lot of *adobo* or *kare-kare*!

At the same time, those on South Beach can control portions by making food servings conform to the size of the container, and vice versa. Of course, the smaller the serving, the better for the diet.

And since it can be flattened before and after every use, Filipinos will find GoFlex! ideal to take to parties. How come? Since it's discreet enough to fit inside a bag or even under a jacket (as Halverson demonstrated), those who love to take home food (as not a few Filipinos are won't to do) even after helping themselves to third and fourth servings now have a ready container to pop up at a moment's notice. That's one load off the harried host.

"Children think it's cool," says Halverson. "Apart from today's consumers, Tupperware is creating products for tomorrow's consumers as well. And tomorrow's consumers are today's kids."

Youngsters, he adds, want products that "move." In other words, they demand containers that are flexible, tactile and attractive. GoFlex! is certainly one product they won't leave behind in school or in the locker, as it can be readily collapsed and slipped into their bags.

GoFlex! isn't built for the microwave, says Kusuma, but it's freezer- and dishwasher-safe. The best part is it can be stacked inside a dishwasher in its flattened state like an ordinary plate. Unless, of course, it was used to store greasy food such as *bulalo* or *pochero* or sticky desserts like *ube*, then it's best to expand your GoFlex! before turning on the switch. Or better yet, you can wash it the cheap, old-fashioned way with dish-washing soap and sponge.

SLIP it in your bag and go.

High tech take-out box

GoFlex!, Kusuma adds, is Tupperware's latest attempt at redefining functionality through design, innovation and technology. As long as technology is simple but smart, it need not be complex for it to be able to produce a good product.

"When we began working on this project," says Kusuma, "we started with the classic Chinese take-out box as an inspiration. In fact, we've probably thought of and evaluated almost every type of package that collapses and falls flat."

It was a tedious process that involved not only people at the Tupperware headquarters in Orlando, but also its entire design and manufacturing teams the world over. Even the company's materials suppliers were kept involved.

They were, after all, not only tasked to produce an innovative product that works, they were also under pressure to produce a practical, user-friendly product that's designed to last a lifetime. That's one of Tupperware's time-honored promises to ensure customer loyalty and satisfaction.

Kusuma and his team then put GoFlex! to a series of usability tests among Tupperware's in-house home economists.

"This was to ensure that the product not only perform in terms of materials and how it was molded," he says, "but also to ensure that it performs in terms of how the user interacts with it to make sure there are no surprises."

But whether Tupperware's loyal and potential patrons like it or not, they're bound to be amazed with the brand's latest offering. It's a bit early to say if it will create a demand for similar products in the future, but company executives are confident enough to admit that they're working on a number of variants (an expandable water jug for gym buffs would be neat) they plan to launch in the near future.

As for GoFlex! making it as one of the top inventions that changed the lives of people in the 21st century, only time will tell.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

TUPPERWARE'S Philippine team—Jose de Jesus Buenrosto, president of Tupperware Philippines, with, from left, Juliet Chan, regional sales director (Metro Manila, Palawan and Northern Mindanao), Yvette Navarro, national sales director, Amelou Fajardo, product manager, Ros Pua, regional sales director (Mindanao) Evelyn Tabanyag, regional sales director (Visayas and Southern Luzon), Villa Villaraiz, regional sales director (Northern Luzon) and Maribel Sindico, market director.

ALEX VERGARA

Prizes and promos for supercenter opening

WITH THE OPENING of the new Robinsons Place on Pioneer Street, Edsa, Mandaluyong City, shopping convenience gets a big boost.

Advancing the concept of micro-retailing, the sprawling 31,000-sq-m, three-level structure will host some 200 shops and stores on the first two levels, while the third level houses an appliance center, "powercenters" and the Robinsons Movieworld.

The new mall also hosts the three premiere stores of the Robinsons Retail Group—Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supercenter and 'Handyman Do It Center.

Located on the second level, the new Robinsons Department Store offers an exciting range of merchandise and the modern comforts of department store shopping especially for those on the lookout for great buys.

Everyday fashion is what Robinsons Department Store offers to shoppers, and the Pioneer outlet showcases a mix of apparel, shoes, bags and accessories from popular brands and from the store's private labels—Julia, Julia Plus, Liberte, Portside, Nitelites, B+Active, All About Kids and G-Company. It also carries a wide range of home essentials, personal care items like cosmetics and beauty products, toys and gift items, and school and office supplies.

In the mall's first level is the new 6,500-sq-m Robinsons Supercenter, which integrates a department store, supermarket, appliance store, winery and pharmacy in one hub.

"People are very busy and they are looking for a format that can provide them with ultimate convenience, where everything they need is under one roof," explains Randy Guttery, Robinsons Supercenter Group general manager.

Meanwhile, Handyman expands its reach to bring to the public not just a complete range of items that homeowners need but also essential supplies for the thriving real estate and construction industries via Handyman Do It Center. Along the stretch of Edsa, it is the most modern mall-based one-stop hardware and home improvement shop.

Conceptualized as a builders' center, the product inventory at Handyman Do It Center goes beyond household needs to building and finishing supplies. There are power tools, paint and painting implements; tiles; maintenance and lifestyle items such as decor and accents); water systems; bathroom and kitchen fixtures; electrical and automotive products, and other categories.

RIBBON cutters: Jody Gadia, Handyman general manager; Marecio Ong of Marcat marketing; Jasmin Chua, Miss Philippines-water; Tamera Marie Szijarto, Miss Philippines-Earth; Nadia Camoli-Miss Philippines-Air; Bob Plank, Do It Best consultant and Willy Co, Handyman president

Handyman Do It Center also offers specialized services to customers like Computerized Paint Mixing for its exclusive Do It Best paint brand, a wood shop for made-to-order furniture, and genuine auto replacement parts.

As a grand opening treat, the three stores have prepared special consumer promos. Robinsons Department Store has a weekly raffle where gift certificates and mobile phones are given away.

For the opening of Robinsons Supercenter, ten major appliances every week will be raffled off, with a Home Entertainment Showcase as grand prize. There are also regular "crazy sales" and "gift with purchase" promos.

Finally, Handyman Do It Center raffles off five 14" color TV sets complete with a surround speaker system. These, plus a chance to win a brand new Toyota Vios in a raffle co-sponsored by Philips lighting products.

Nature's beauty harnessed to promote wellness

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

OSEWA, which means "caring for you" in Japanese, is one of the Cancer Institute's frontline support groups. Now that the Healing Garden established by the institute (at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital) is three years old, Osewa is more active than ever.

Together with other supporters and donors, it complements the medical aspects of healing by introducing wellness programs with recreational and relaxing activities that bring comfort and hope. These activities include lecture therapies on such subjects as horticulture, flower arrangement, music and other art forms to inspire the feeling that life is worth living.

What is a healing garden? At the Cancer Institute, it is an open space, a quadrangle, more romantically referred to as an atrium, located in the center of the building. As all the three floors of the institute have balconies running all around them, patients and caregivers who like a bit of fresh air, can just look out from them and get a good view of the garden below.

The guiding spirit behind the healing garden concept is Dr. Cecilia L. Llave, gynecologist-oncologist. She decided to muster the healing power of nature when she was appointed chair of the CI in 2001. She knew how much pain and suffering cancer could cause, especially if cures were elusive.

A bit of beauty

Doctors needed to go beyond medical solutions and seek socio-psychological ones. Among other things, confinement could be made more bearable when a bit of beauty was all around.

So Dr. Llave founded the Cancer Institute Foundation and sought the support of friends like businessman Tony Perez and his wife Tita and members of the Los Baños Orchid Society (LBOS). They were joined by other generous donors, both individuals and groups.

The Perezes are almost always on call for the needs of the healing garden. They helped in the design of the garden while the LBOS provided the plants and flowers now growing there. The center fountain, the tinkling rock pool, the tile flooring, the children's playground equipment, were all donations of friends who believed in the project.

Since a garden, especially one with such a high purpose as this one, needs constant care, many of the donors' duties, continue beyond the donation. The garden has become a focal point of the institute. It has dispelled the gloomy, often antiseptic look typical of most hospitals. As it bloomed, the garden inspired new ideas on healing and wellness.

Dr. Llave scheduled therapy lecture sessions to teach patients, their visitors, as well as caregivers, on gardening, flower arranging, composting, handicrafts, even cooking. The lecture sessions included actual demonstrations, further raising the consciousness of the participants on love of nature and why one must keep the environment beautiful and clean.

They are encouraged to bring these lessons home and perhaps turn them into sources of livelihood.

Therapy buzzword

Tony Perez found out about "Osewa" during a trip to Japan where some Filipino doctors explained it to him. He picked it up instantly, seeing how apt it was for the work he was doing with Dr. Llave. It has since become the buzzword of the therapy sessions.

Osewa has prepared its schedule for 2005, which carries features of the past year, but with some additions, like more activities in natural surroundings. Osewa has become a club and is now what one can call the healing garden's "implementing group."

It has lined up more donors and supporters, and included more subjects for demonstrations in the lecture therapy sessions, like the performing arts, meditation and spiritual exercises for a holistic approach to the treatment of body, mind and spirit. More than ever, Osewa wants to be an effective partner in the healing process.

The healing garden has attracted the attention of outsiders who find in this hospital garden a place not only cool and refreshing but beautiful to behold. Other hospitals have asked the foundation and Osewa to help them set up their own healing gardens, like the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City, and the Quezon Memorial Hospital in Quezon province.

Dr. Llave and her group hope they have started a trend to make healing a more pleasurable process.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

The Healing Garden dispels the gloomy, often antiseptic look typical of most hospitals

CYNTHIA Mariano Isidro's award-winning orchid for Mega Orchids

Lectures on plant and gardening

A SERIES of lectures and demonstrations are being conducted at the ongoing Horticulture 2005 Grand Exhibit being held at the Manila Seedling Bank Environment Center Greenhouses 2 and 3, Edsa corner Quezon Ave., QC.

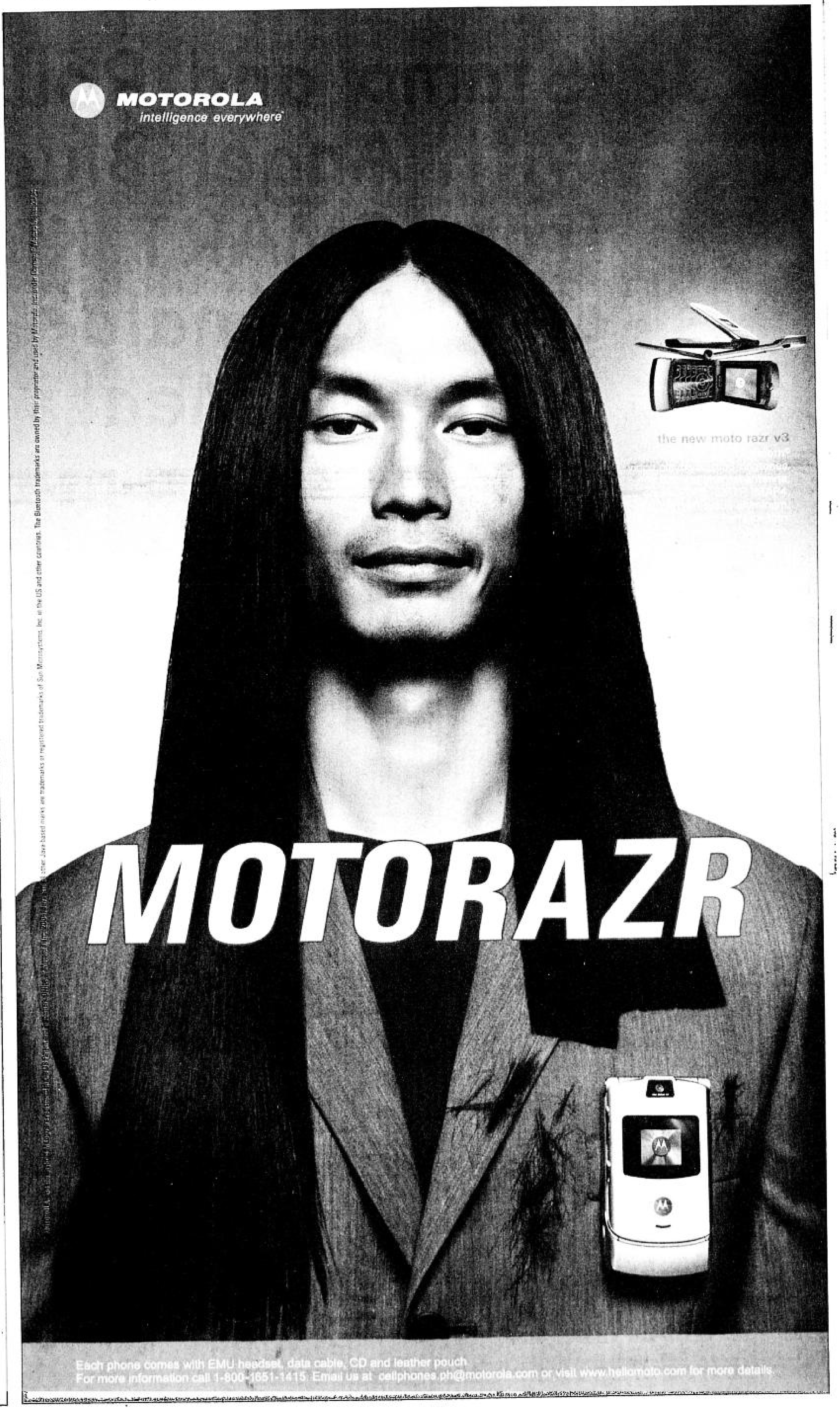
The lecturers and their topics are: PJ Nepomuceno, Proper Growing of Bromeliads, 10 a.m. today; and Fely S. Gupit, Potentials of Ornamental Plants as Money Makers and Appreciating Bonsai and Suiseki, 2 p.m. today. Gupit will also launch her book "The Bonsai and Suiseki Collection of Felicidad Sanchez Gupit" during the lecture. Proceeds from book sale will be used to assist underprivileged but deserving agriculture students of the University of the Philippines.

Other lecturers are Andres Golamco Jr., Potting and Growing Orchids on Jan. 31; Jimmy Floro, Make Your Own Pocket Garden Landscape, Feb. 1; Fernando Aurigue, Mutation Breeding in Ornamental Plants, Feb. 2; Joyce Kato, Paradise Regained in Ikebana Flower Arrangements, Feb. 3; and a representative of East-West Seeds Co., flower seed distributor, New and Exciting Breeds of Vinca as Potted Flowering and Landscaping Plants from Holland, Feb. 4. The company will also launch their new hybrids.

PJ Nepomuceno, PHS president, will also talk on Water Garden Landscape and Exotic Aquatic Plants in the morning of Feb. 5. Fernando Aurigue will talk on Breeding and Culture of Aroids in the afternoon of the same day. Nepomuceno will lecture on Rare Fern Culture, 10 a.m., Feb. 6; Serapion Metilla, Tray Landscapes and Terrariums, Feb. 6.

The Philippine Bonsai Society will relaunch its first book, "Bonsai and Suiseki, Trees and Stones in Harmony."

"Horticulture 2005-Visions of Paradise" is sponsored by the Philippine Horticultural Society. It ends Feb. 7.



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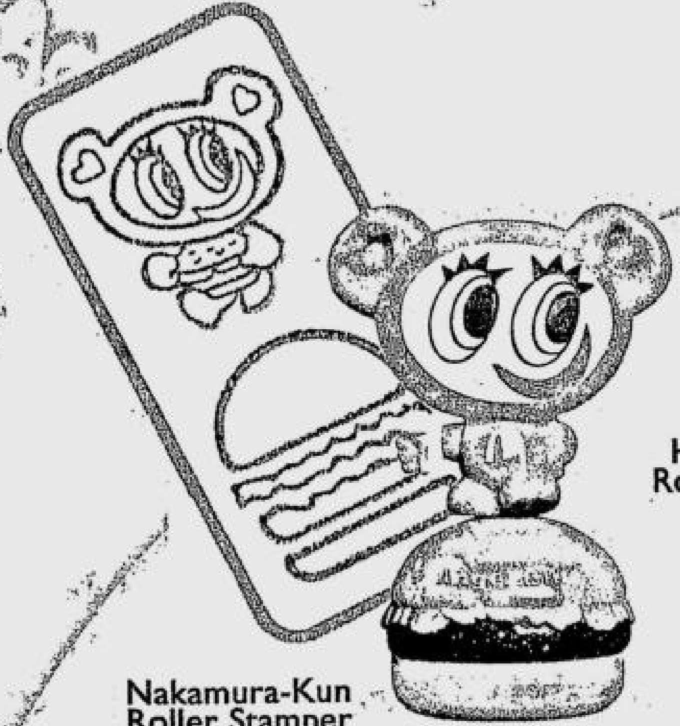
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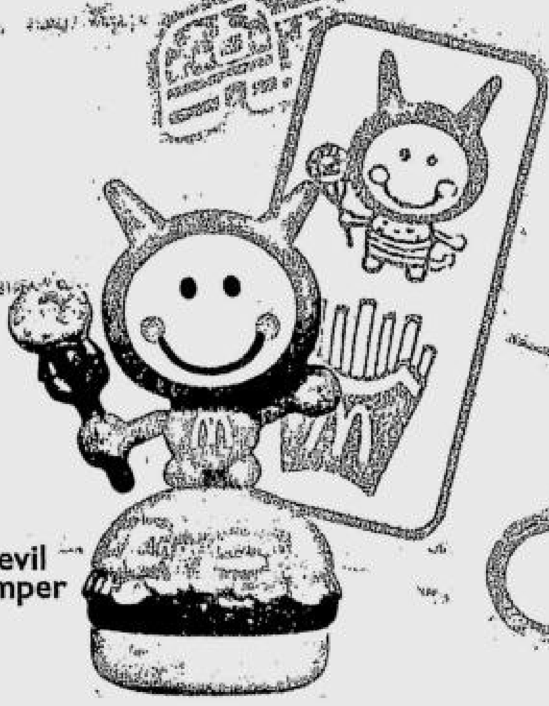
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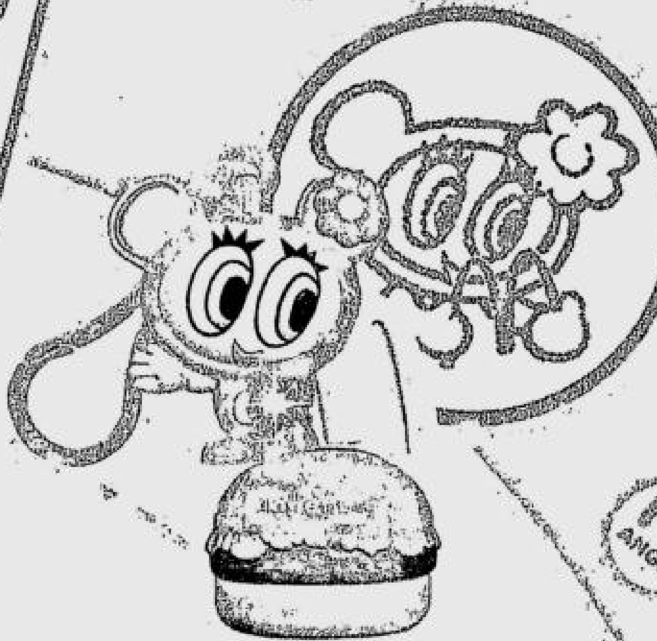
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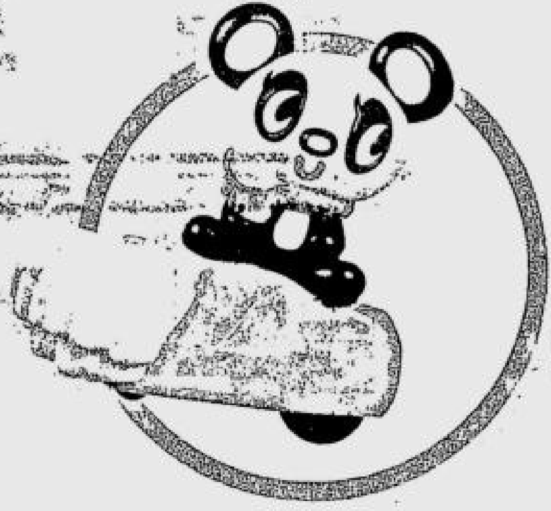
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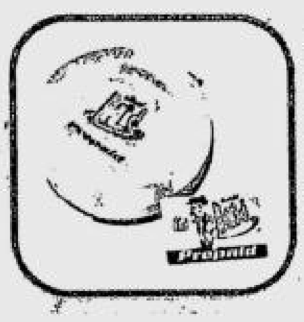

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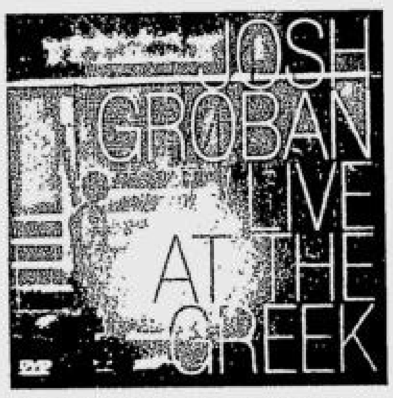
Breaktime at Tiffany's

MUST-GO-TO event—The highly anticipated fashion and hi-luxe event for next month (Feb. 4) is the launch of the new Tiffany boutique and the coffee-table book, "Tiffany in Fashion: A Study of American Fashion and Fashion Photography." It will be held at the new Tiffany & Co. store at Rustan's Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 6:30 p.m.

"Tiffany in Fashion" features an in-depth look at 70 years of fashion in America, depicted by some of the world's greatest fashion photographers such as **Edward Steichen, Richard Avedon** and **Herb Ritts.**

In the same light, February seems a very busy month what with Valentine's and a slew of concerts. Not to be missed is **Russel Watson's** concert at the PICC, as well as the launches of high-powered luxe brands such as Franck Muller and Van Cleef and Arpels.

WHAT'S hot for women—wedge shoes



MUST-HAVE CD/DVD: Josh Groban's "Live at the Greek"

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

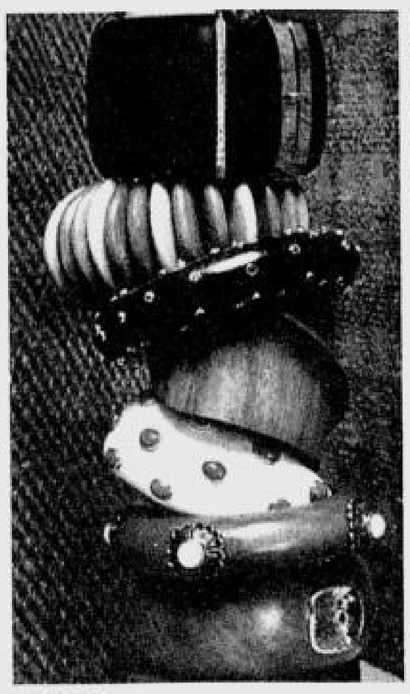
But the immediate concern is Tiffany's strictly invitation launch, so if you do get an invite, it's a definite must that you attend!

Must-have CD/DVD—"Josh Groban Live at the Greek." If you would like to see more of Josh Groban performing, then this is the CD/DVD to get. It features Groban performing in the legendary Greek Theater in Los Angeles, taped during summer 2004. Amid a full house of shrieking fans, he shows he not only is blessed with a gifted voice, but is a natural performer as well. He delivers powerful performances of pop-operatic songs like "Canto Alla Vita" and "Caruso" and gets a standing ovation with "You Raise Me Up" and "Never Let Go."

The DVD also includes a tour diary narrated by the singer as well as other bonuses. If you need to watch a concert this year even if it is only on your TV screen, this one is it!

Watch out for Men's Vogue. While it has been around in Europe for some time (France, Spain, Germany and Italy have their own edition) the US market is gearing up for the launch of Men's Vogue in September. This was leaked to the world press during the men's fashion week in Milan, when they sent a team to cover the Fall/Winter 2005 shows.

So far the editor looks to be **Jay Fielden,** who currently serves as Vogue's art editor.



BANGLES

What's hot for 2005—oversized bags. Now's the time to put your clutch and evening bags to rest. Since summer is here it's time for oversized bags to regain their reign and be on every fashionable lady's shoulder. Major leading fashion houses like Bottega Venetta, Prada and Pucci are the hottest brands to have.

Bangles. It seems that the '80s are upon us again, this time around bangles come in varying materials from leather, croc, wood, etc. The trick here is to have it by the armful and it can be classic or playful styles.

Wedges. Put away your kitten heels and stilettos. The only way to add fashionable height this year is to wear wedges. Hits include cork, rope (espadrille style), wood, printed or plain are surefire winners.

Must-have cologne—Dior's Eaux de cologne. Because everything old is new again and because younger designers are being hired by fashion houses to revive their spirit, paying homage to tradition and history is the new form of chic.

Over at Dior Homme under the direction of **Hedi Slimane,** the company is reintroducing the first three fragrances launched by the house of Dior in 1947. The three fragrances namely Eau Noire, Cologne Blanche and Bois D'Argent are all distinct from another but share the same 18th-century tradition of perfumery.

Eau Noire (my favorite) combines lavender, cedar and vanilla and evokes the black tie mood of Dior Homme. Cologne Blanche has a sweet, powdery scent with orange and vanilla perfect for daywear. And Bois D'Argent is rich, mysterious and worldly with notes drawn from myrrh, honey and even leather.

The colognes are available at Homme et Femme boutique at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 6337009.

The place to go on Saturdays. This is one of those well-kept secrets that's all set to go major. For three months now, a lot of people have been going to the open market at Salcedo Village and have made it a Saturday habit. They started with a few stalls selling specialized home-cooked meals and a few organic vegetables and fruits. Today the place is full of varied food fare. The vendors sell the best barbecues, Thai food, fresh seafood, as well as cut flowers and potted plants.

But there is one reason I go and that's for the best commercial Chinese *lumpia* this side of town (over at Ortigas DECS gets the crown). It's only P40 and is absolutely scrumptious (look for the stall that says Yan Ching). I can devour four *lumpias* in one sitting and it's so good that I actually dream of it.

TIFFANY IN FASHION
John Loring

THE EVENT to go to—the Tiffany boutique and coffee-table book launch on Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall

MUST-HAVE cologne: Dior's Eaux De Cologne

If you noticed I mentioned the best commercial Chinese *lumpia* because there's nothing like homemade, and if I were to rank who has the best homemade *lumpia* in town then it goes to three ladies, namely, **Annie Young, Lucille Carlos Locsin** and the late **Tita Paz Yuchengco.**

The market reminds me of flea markets abroad, except they only sell food, vegetables and plants. You can actually eat there, but please bring your own utensils, towel rags (to clean up) and tons of tissue. Here's a tip, go early—at 9-10 a.m.—because it gets full by noon. By that time, most of the food is gone. Believe me, it's that popular. See you there!

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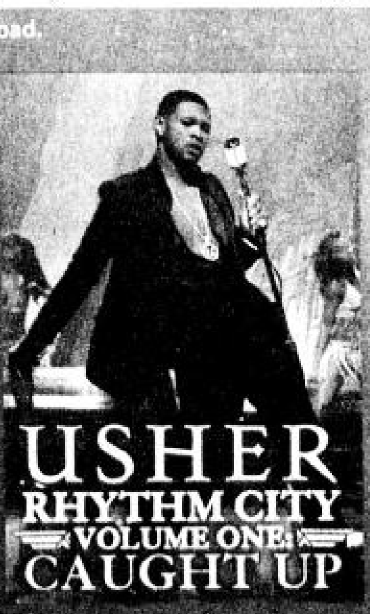

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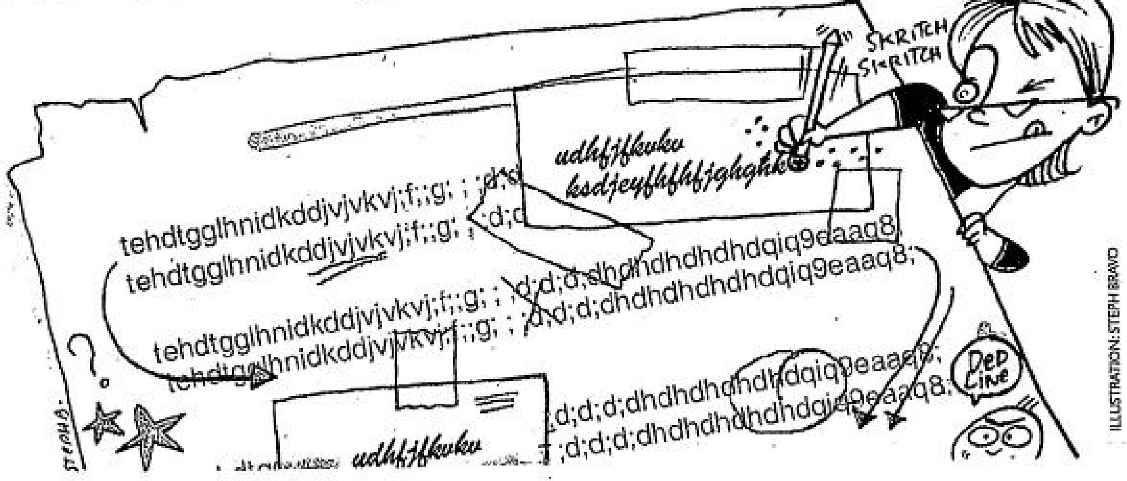
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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Literary angst

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

Part 2

SINCE I really had few writer friends, I romanticized their lives. Bohemian Lily Amansec awed me because she was so weird and wrote fabulous stories about a bar she owned. Angst-ridden poet Homero Ch. Veloso slashed his wrists in a bathtub and watched the blood flow out until he died. Later it was Krip Yuson and his then-wife Sylvia, flower children of the '60s, who created the cult magazine Ermita, whom I idolized. I envied them for being such free spirits. (They taught me to smoke pot.) Krip would go to my A. Mabini antique shop and say, "Today shall I choose to buy this old thingamajig from you or some dinner to take home?" (Or was it a bunch of pink daisies against a bunch of *pancit*?) Always the romantic, irresponsible choice won and the couple starved that night. (Krip later married Bambi and touched earth.)

David Medalla, poet, painter and performance artist, 17 years old in 1957, was the decade's proto-hippie, a boy genius who went around in tattered barong tagalog and *bakya*. He lived in a relic of the war, a ruined building on A. Mabini in whose shadowy interiors his family had erected a shanty.

During his poetry readings in the ruins, David emerged from the darkness in some dramatic costume, carrying a branched *candelabra* with smoking candles. He read poems by Baudelaire, Mallarme and Verlaine. He called his place "Le Cave des Angelis" and it had a cult following of writers, artists and sophisticates.

Party of the decade

Once, David gave a party for Jun Lansang who had won a poetry award. The party was like a Mad Hatter's, only loonier. Twelve places with red goblets were set on a long table. It would have been a nice party except that 21 people came. There were Andy Cruz and Mrs. Andy, Armando Manalo and Mrs. M, Madam Toto Locsin and her son Teddyboy, Lily Amansec and Joy something, Jolico Cuadra and Joan Edades, Willie Sanchez and Jun Terra, Franklin Cabaluna, Leony Benesa, Larry Francia and me

> Eventually, I realized that more than any man, woman or child, my husband considered my writing his rival

LITERARY/ F2

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Literary angst

From page F1

and a fellow named Scottdugger who was in love with David.

Jun Lansang was the honoree because he had won an award for a poem he wrote. Jun was emotionally unstable but everyone loved him.

Gold-bejeweled David was resplendent in his batik sarong, his hair down to his shoulders. Every time a new guest (invited or uninvited) arrived, the chairs had to be rearranged and we stood up three times during the soup. Jose Garcia Villa arrived the latest of all, and alas, there was no more dinner left for him.

David Medalla and Jun Lansang were utterly convinced that it was the most impressive party in the universe and were very concerned about "recording everything for posterity."

There was a pad on which to sign our names and photographers to take our pictures (we crazy-posed three times) and a movie camera, too, and would you believe, a tape recorder to preserve all our silly talk.

David said, "My goodness, if someone put a bomb under this table it would be the end of arts and letters," and after a few beers we began to believe it, too.

"It is the party of the decade," Jun Lansang kept repeating with the accent on the last syllable of "decade." I thought he was saying "decayed" so I asked him to spell it. The tape recorder kept going on and on but still nobody said anything bright.

The meal was nice. Vegetarian (unheard of in the '50s), because David and his white friend Scottdugger claimed to be Buddhists. Each dish was named for some important writer, such as "Omellete à la Nick Joaquin," as were the fresh Chinese mushrooms dish, the very hot shrimp curry and the dessert.

The hired waiter put a spoonful of "omellete" on David's plate and David said, indicating Jun Lansang, "Why don't you serve our honoree first?" It seemed the waiter had mistaken David, with his long hair and flowers and sarong for a girl and said haughtily, "Because we always serve the ladies first."

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Before we could put a spoonful further into our mouths we were halted because we had to say a prayer with our palms up for the movie camera. Still nobody said anything worthwhile. Joy something whispered that she was afraid to go out on a date with Jun because "he was a communist." Lily Amansec announced that she was selling cemetery lots and David agreed to buy one on condition that he be allowed to build a *barong-barong* on it.

Eventually Jun Lansang was asked to recite his winning poem, but midway through he floundered, in near panic, his eyes moist with tears. And Larry Francia said, "It's all right, Jun, nobody memorizes his own poems." And everybody had a kind word too for Jun. And if only people who are confused, or depressed or have lost a button realize how many people love them, they would be okay fast.

David Medalla recited his own poem mellifluously, in a silky voice and there was a lot of French in it. This made Jun even sadder and he kept blowing into a napkin all through the dinner. Joan Edades finished her dessert and promptly fell asleep on her chair. She snored softly through the brandy and a heated discussion on Rimbaud.

"Everyone is cackling in high-pitched voices!" suddenly thundered Jose Garcia Villa. "Like hens! No one has a baritone like me!" And that was the great poet's contribution to the evening.

Someone had given Jun a huge red papier maché horse which he had to carry home in a small taxi. The two of them could hardly fit into the back seat, looking like a fine pair about to elope. But if the dish could run away with the spoon, why indeed couldn't a red paper horse and Jun?

Hostile act

Throughout my life, whenever our family went on vacation, in the mountains or on a beach, my writing away in a notebook was considered a hostile act. I couldn't understand it.

How come my husband could be reading an Esquire magazine or a trashy whodunnit and I couldn't do my thing at the same time? "Because when you're writing it's like you're not here with us," he explained to me once. "You're so engrossed. You're like in an impenetrable bubble."

I would tuck away my notebook and suffer instead through a TV show that everyone normal was enjoying. He accepted my occasionally writing about him as another burden to bear, on top of feeding and sheltering a writer. "*Ganyan lang*," I would tell him, "*kung minsan bida ka, kung minsan* villain."

And yet my husband was undoubtedly my best critic. He could not tell the good points of a story but he could always pinpoint the bad ones. He was specially sharp about the articles I wrote—he could anticipate how certain statements or ideas might not sit well with the reader or might even be proven wrong. He saved me many times from that. Also, his favorite columnist was William Saffire and since we shared a bed, hubby was the nearest, hugginest thesaurus to consult.

Eventually I realized that more than any man, woman, or child, my husband considered my writing his rival. And maybe so, because it was my passion. I could pour into a piece of paper all my anguish, my fantasies and my secret desires. I could create a dwelling place, a holy of holies that no one could enter. I could write in code, in mirror penmanship, in unsolvable mystery symbols.

Actually I wrote in long hand, with the best of technical pens. I cut and scotch-taped when a paragraph needed to be transferred to another spot, or be added to the bottom of a page. I encircled and drew stars and arrows facing in different directions with varicolored crayons until the manuscript looked like a decorated quilt or a wounded warrior.

Public document

My manuscripts amazed my friend, Michael Tan, a computer-age baby. He never beheld anything so archaic and bizarre! Only when I surrendered it to my encoder, Larry, to copy on the computer, did it look, at last, like a decent public document.

What a public document! "Too public!" some friend complains. "You are baring too much, you're doing a virtual strip tease." (Should I be ashamed?) But is that why you read it? Or to learn something, to avoid such a fix? "When you grow old, there are no more secrets," said a laid-back contemporary. Are you kidding? I have a deep well.

My journalist friend, Vergel O. Santos, says, if you write something autobiographical you may be kind but you must also tell the truth. Maybe being frank is my revenge for all those plaster statue biographies that are so well iced you wonder if the subject ever had a heartache, an insecurity, a mean thought or an orgasm.

Eventually, of course, all these things that I am writing (and more!) goes into a book. I promise not to tell all.

For budding literary strip teasers, there is an Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) that will keep one's hot stuff in escrow in a sealed envelope to be released on a date set by oneself. That will complete the gaps in women's stories. There will go the missing painful pages of my book, to be inserted on pp. 89, 162, 175 etc, 30 years after my death.

If you are still alive by then, promise to buy the new edition.

Phenomenal procession on feast of San Ildefonso

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

DR. Gil Villacorte was overwhelmed by the phenomenal turnout for the procession honoring San Ildefonso and the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 23. A massive throng walked through the streets of the town, passing by lighted houses and stores that were waiting for the procession.

It is said that when San Ildefonso passes by, one could whisper prayers to him and they would be granted. Some 8,000 people joined and watched the procession.

Fireworks met the procession when it returned to the church. Church bells rang and band music reached a crescendo, making the fiesta of St. Ildefonsus (San Ildefonso) truly glorious.

The devotion has flourished for 120 years since the small barrio of Bulac of the town of San Rafael was dedicated to San Ildefonso and had its first parish priest in 1886 in Padre Juan de la Rosa. The book "Bulac Noon, San Ildefonso Ngayon" written by Angelo and Alowa de los Reyes, describes the history of the town.

SAN Ildefonso in his *carroza* before the procession

Bulac, including San Miguel, was part of Hacienda Buenavista owned by the Hospital de San Juan de Dios. The new pueblo of San Ildefonso included the barrios of Maasim, Telapatio, Antayam, Upig, Bululong, Malake and Garlang, which were part of San Rafael before. Barrio Bulac was declared the *poblacion* where the church of San Ildefonso was built.

Gawad awardee

The fiesta Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 23, feast day of the saint, was officiated by Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros with 13 priests as co-celebrants including Fr. Cenon Bernabe, 89, who wrote the "Hymn to San Ildefonso" in Spanish then later translated it into Tagalog. For this he received the Gawad Award from the Hermandad de San Ildefonso.

The church was packed with devotees from Bulacan and places as far as Laguna.

The Hermandad, formed in October, is composed of devotees of San Ildefonso and is headed by past presidents of the town fiesta. They have a coat of arms, designed by artist Jim Galang himself a devotee, pinned to their lapels or sewn into their T-shirts.

The group mounted a grand exhibit of the life of San Ildefonso in the multi-purpose hall beside the church. Thousands of people visited, prayed and put their petitions inside boxes.

Testimonies of miracles

A young couple has reason to be happy these days. John Galang and his wife Lyn have been married for two and a half years, but she wasn't able to conceive. John, general manager of engineer Paul Cruz's computer company, prayed to San Ildefonso, when the company was involved in the fiesta's computer requirements.

Lyn, who is with Metrobank, prayed very hard as well. She is now pregnant.

Josephine Flores Miranda remembers that when she was 10 years old living in Mexico, Pampanga, her mother, Marcela Legaspi Flores, was very sick and had to be brought to San Ildefonso where she stayed for three months. Through the saint's intercession, Ms Flores recovered, according to Ms Miranda.

Those who need *estampitas* can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Inspired by Mama Mary

Fr. Bernie Diaz, CM, remembers that, as a small boy in Oslob, Cebu, his mother, Eufrocina Niping Diaz, would gather her children to pray the Holy Rosary together. So Father Bernie developed a vocation to be a priest for Mary. He first arrived at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in 1986 as a seminarian.

Now, as parish priest, he is working very hard to make the 25th anniversary of the shrine an event to remember. As part of the celebration, Saturday novenas are being held at 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Every first Monday of the month, a healing Mass is held. Charismatic healing priest Fr. Diwane Cacao is the guest at 5 p.m. Feb. 7. The public is invited. The shrine is in Posadas Village, Sukat, Muntinlupa City.

Los Baños healing Masses

Fr. Diwane Cacao will hold Healing Masses at 9 a.m. Feb. 8-11 at the Sancti Dei Chapel, Lopez Village, Los Baños, to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Father Wanny has been healing since 1994 when he was still parish priest of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Calejan, San Pablo, Laguna. He has been invited abroad to hold Healing Masses for Filipino communities.

St. John Bosco's feast

Salesian communities all over the world will mark the feast of St. John Bosco, the Apostle of Youth, Jan. 31. Fr. John Bosco's ministry focused on the youth whom he gathered in an old barn that he called "The Oratory," which became home for poor boys. He brought them to Mass, Confession and Communion.

His charism has led to the building of schools for boys in many countries. In Metro Manila, we have the Don Bosco School in Makati, Tondo, Manila and Mandaluyong and the home and school for abandoned children in Alabang.

Don Bosco's compassion for poor boys is not surprising because he himself was poor. He was born in a little farm near Turin, Italy, in 1850, to poor parents. He walked four miles to school everyday for half a year, and then worked for a farmer, then a tailor, a shoemaker and a carpenter during the other half.

John Bosco didn't stop working until he became a priest.

Healing priest

St. Francis Church along Shaw Blvd., Pasig will have Fr. Teofilo Rustia as healing priest during the Mass on Feb. 10 , 7 p.m., to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Bring the needy and the sick.

SPCM reunion

St. Paul College of Manila High School Class '80 will have its Silver Jubilee on Jan. 30, 12 nn, at SPCM. It will also be the grand alumni homecoming of all classes. Basil Valdez and the Side A Band will perform in the evening.

Torres Batch '49 reunion

Members of Torres High School class April 1949 will hold their annual reunion on Feb. 5, 2 p.m., at the Gardara Room of Club Filipino in Greenhills. For details, call Dr. Leticia de Mesa at 9287282.

February celebrations

SHANGRI-LA Plaza has lined up a number of activities for Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

Concerts by the Echoettes Young Voices on Feb. 5, 5 p.m., and the multi-awarded Chiang Kai Shek Children's choir at 6 p.m. will welcome the Year of the Rooster

On Feb. 6, the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association will present a dragon and lion dance exhibition and a Chinese martial arts exhibition.

Free feng shui sessions will be conducted at Level 3 (beside the Liz Claiborne store) by Prof. Charlie Chao for customers for every P2,500 single or accumulated same day purchase Feb. 5-6.

The "Rooster and the Sun," a storytelling session with the Alitaptap Storytellers Club, will be held Feb. 5.

The Gallery 828 presents the solo art exhibit of Julius Limpe, "Varieties of 2005", from Feb. 16.

Pre-Valentine shows will feature Acoustic Perfection, Feb. 11; Arthur M, Feb. 12; and the Apo Hiking Society, Feb 13.

Ongoing until Feb. 20 is "Chinatown," a Chinese Food and Curio Festival. A Valentine Sale will be held Feb. 11-20.

Call 6337851 or log on to www.shangrila-plaza.com.

THE BABY Talk Showcase (Jan. 28-Feb. 3). Draw is on Feb. 4.

Win baby showcase if price is right

SHOPPERS have a chance to win the Baby Talk showcase until Feb. 3 in Shopwise Supercenters' promo, You Can Win if the Price is Right.

The Baby Talk showcase features one Blossom Farm toy, crib mobile, stroller, single bed, playpen, walker, set of bed linen (single), crib comforter set, assorted baby clothes, bathtub, tableware set, complete baby feeding set, baby drawer with closet, steam sterilizer, and assorted baby products.

To join, simply make a purchase worth P400 at Shopwise, plus P100 worth of participating products to get a promo stub. Fill up the stub, including your estimate of the price of the showcase, and drop in the drop box that corresponds to your guess of how much the featured showcase costs.

Participating products include Cadbury, Hersheys, Zesto Nido 3+ & 1+, Joy Bathroom Tissue, Vaseline Shampoo, Pond's Whitening, Downy Naturals, Tide Plus, Rejoice, Pampers, J&J Baby Product, Colgate, Palmolive, Del Monte Products, Jack 'n Jill, Milo, Tropicana Twister, Knorr, Mead Johnson, Tisyu, Drypers, Jergens, Lactacyd, Nivea, MYSan, Monde, Lucky Me, Maya, Gain Plus, EQ, PH Care, Biolink, Baygon and Citre Shine

The customer whose guess is closest to without exceeding the actual retail price of the showcase wins, and will take home the featured showcase of the week. A player will be chosen every week to compete in the final pricing game to be held on March 13 in all stores.

The You Can Win if the Price is Right promotion runs in all Shopwise branches in Alabang, Makati, Libis, and Araneta Center until March 3.

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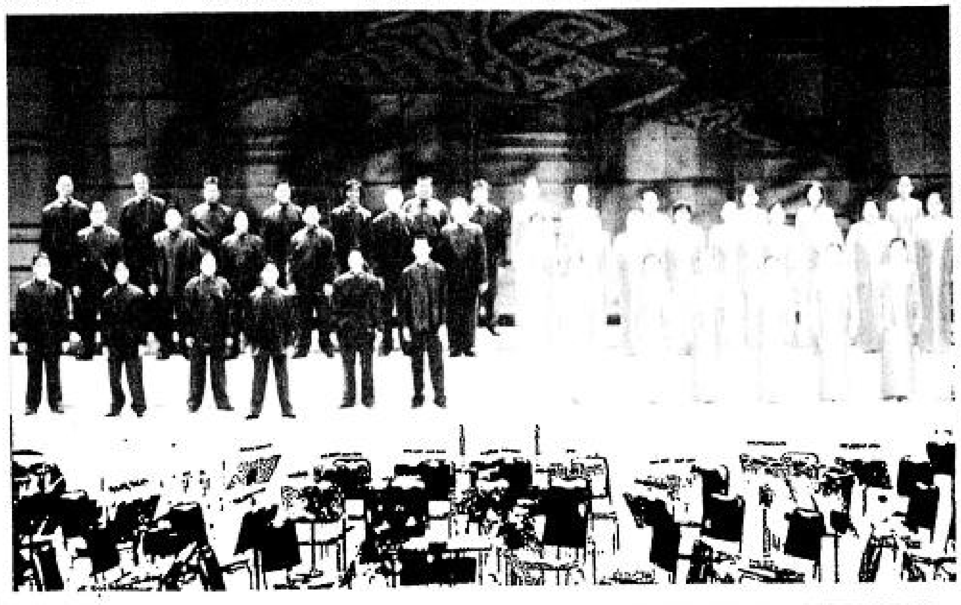
Stage is Set for *Russell Watson, Sir William Hayward and the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra*

Russell Watson

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra

Sir William Hayward



With just over a week to go till the eagerly awaited concert of worldwide opera sensation Russell Watson, the whole town is buzzing with sheer excitement and anticipation as it was recently revealed that the phenomenally successful British tenor's live performance will feature knighted Brit conductor Sir William Hayward. And joining the world-class talents at the PICC Plenary Hall this Thursday, February 10, will be no less than the very best of our own local talents. Sir William will be conducting none other than the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 40-member San Miguel Master Chorale that will accompany Russell Watson, who are guaranteed to complement Russell's vocal agility.

Sir William Hayward

Sir William Hayward himself is enough reason for opera and classical music aficionados to mark their calendars for this one-night-only affair. He is an accomplished and highly respected composer, conductor, arranger and concert organist in the UK and in Europe. Incidentally, he also happens to be the man behind making Russell what he is today; Sir William is Russell's voice coach and his influence on Russell's meteoric rise to superstardom is admirable. Both have collaborated in producing the most inspired pieces found in Russell's double platinum albums, "The Voice", "Encore" and "Reprise", with Sir William acting as orchestra conductor on all occasions.

San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 40-member San Miguel Master Chorale

Sir William has been the musical director, conductor, arranger and pianist to Russell's sold out performances. After having conducted the likes of the Royal Philharmonic and Royal Scottish National Orchestras together with many fine choirs, Sir William is now geared up to conduct our very own San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the 40-member San Miguel Master Chorale. In its more than two years of existence, the SMPO has presented numerous concerts that have given life to the works of an interesting array of music geniuses: Mozart, San Pedro, Kancheli, Beethoven, Ravel, Lloyd Webber, Romero, Orff, Cayabyab. Rachmaninoff, Williams, Shostakovitch; Pajaro. Tschaikovsky, Hammerstein and now, have the privilege of working with both Russell Watson and Sir William Hayward.

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PADILLA-TAMBUNTING

Bride takes her time finding Prince Charming

THE DASHING groom Manny Padilla, and wife, gorgeous Mia Ansaldo Tambunting

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Patrick Uy

Elusive bachelor meets irresistible bachelorette

DEFINITELY a head-turner, the beauteous and one of the country's most eligible bachelorettes Mia Tambunting, daughter of popular former Ambassador Jesus Tambunting and the attractive Margarita Ansaldo, said "I do" to tall, good-looking, elusive bachelor Manny Padilla, son of the vivacious Adelaida Rosario and the late Don Augusto Padilla.

The dream wedding took place at the Santuario de San Antonio in posh Forbes Park, *naturellement*, where close pals and relatives belonging to Cosmo Manille and Spain's *alta sociedad* rubbed elbows to witness this once in a lifetime event, darlings.

The gorgeously radiant bride wore a *très* chic Inno Sotto wedding gown made of duchess satin and pineapple silk. Her hair and makeup were done by one of the best, Patrick Rosas, and her jewelry was from Ameling Daez of the popular Oro y Plata.

All the socialites in the entourage wore attractive, canary yellow ensembles in Thai silk, also by Inno Sotto, natch!

Namedroppable sponsors

Proudly standing as principal sponsors were some of the country's hotshot namedroppables like Ambassador Serge Barrera, Raymund Lesaca, Joey Ansaldo, Miguel Zorita, Alfredo Pellicer, Rustan's and Stores Specialists' Nedy Tantoco, Josie Padilla Rufino, Dely Ongsiako, Olive Padilla, Cristina Estrada and Enriqueta Lloret.

Secondary sponsors were the bride's brother, Tommy Tambunting, Gov. Bong Marcos, Sen. Ralph Recto, the groom's sister Sandra Padilla Zorita, Kitty Jacinto and Sen. Jamby Madrigal-Valade.

The church ceremony was made more solemn by the fantastically beautiful voice of Nolyn Cabahug, no less, *palanggas*, who was accompanied by Tina Pasamba's musical ensemble.

After all the must-have church photos, we all dashed to the elegant and super fun wedding reception at the Rigodon Ballroom of the world-class Peninsula Hotel.

Catching all the invitees' eyes were the entrance and ballroom elegantly decorated by the one and only, talented southern gent Antonio Garcia of Mabolo. Palm trees and other "greens" were placed at the entrance and in strategic parts of the ballroom. The buffet tables had different kinds of palms and white flowers, while gold Tiffany chairs surrounded the dinner tables.

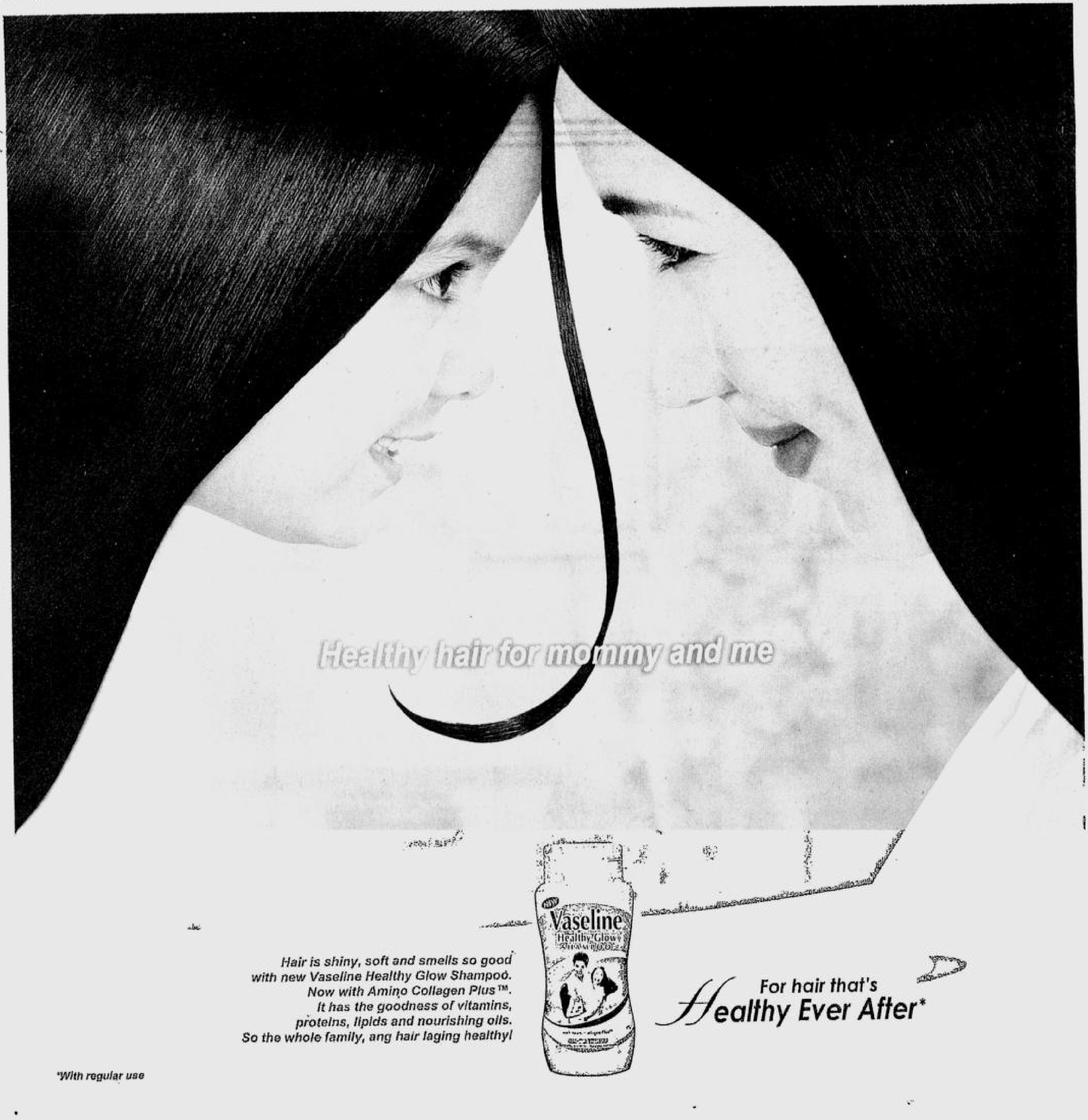
Kissing-est couple

The several food stations included a long table with a variety of salads and appetizers including legs of *jamon serrano* brought in from Spain by the groom's relatives.

A carving station offered roast beef and turkey. Other buffet tables had hot dishes, pasta, and natch, the sinfully calorific desserts—loads of pastries excellently whipped up by the Peninsula's grand chef.

Glasses were clinking almost

BRIDE/ G2



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THE COUPLE with some of the principal sponsors: Dely Ongsiako, Adelaida Padilla, Mila Puyat and Marge Tambunting

THE DIPLOMATIC and social set: Olivia Romulo, Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, Bobby Romulo, Carolyn Dimond, Marge Ansaldo Tambunting and Ambassador Paul Dimond

WITH HOTSHOTS (seated) Josie Rufino, Mita Lesaca and Raymundo Lesaca; (standing) Olive Padilla and Ernest Rufino

WITH THE SPANISH and European connections: (seated) Alfred Pellicer, Enriqueta Lloret and Begonia Gemperle; (standing) Cristobal Yborja, Maria Jose Lopez; Virginia Pellicer, Inaki Pellicer and Nicky Gemperle

CLOSE PALS. Tina Vazquez-Prada, my pal Pepper Teehankee, the bride and Victoria Alfonso

Bride takes her time finding Prince Charming

From page G1

MIA being brought to the altar by her father, former Ambassador Jesus Tambunting

SOCIALITES as principal sponsors. The mother of the groom, Adelaida Vda. de Padilla (center) with principal sponsors Nedy Tantoco (left) and Josie Rufino (right).

throughout the reception prompting the newlyweds to kiss almost continuously, *palanggas.*

Tina Pasamba's ensemble entertained us by playing light music as well as a repertoire of acoustic jive with Romy Jorolan on lead vocals. We also entertained each other. That's how much fun this wedding was. Yes, dahlings, it was one heck of a great big party.

As we watched the couple make the first dance, one good-looking friend of mine told me, "That Manny is surely a lucky guy. To think I've had this mad crush on Mia for long time," he sighed.

Oh well, buddy, too late the mambo, *n'est-ce pas?*

The bride, Mia, made sure all her women guests went home with crystal trinket boxes beautifully packaged in beige satin boxes with satin ribbons. And, as always, we guys had to carry the gals' giveaways as we left the reception and headed for V for more partying, *palanggas.*

The bride certainly did not rush but took her time finding her Prince Charming.

Here's to one of the best of the bests of couples, Mr. and Ms Padilla.

Cheers, *palanggas.*

WITH THE ENTOURAGE. (First row) Samantha Montinola, Ines Alfonso, Victoria Alfonso, Carla Zorita and Ed Castro; (second row) Nicole Lhuillier, Nicole Padilla, Joaquin Parpan with mom Liza Chan-Parpan; (third row, seated) Christiane Tambunting

WITH PRINCIPAL sponsors and invitees mixed together: Diana Jean Lopez, Sen. Jamby Madrigal-Valade, Eric Valade and Nedy Tantoco; (standing) Lisa Lesaca and Sonny Ya

WITH THE GANG of beautiful people: Andy Cruz and Mia Trinidad-Hashim; (standing) Anna Angara with Joel Trinidad; Boompy Martel; Gai Olivares and Barni Escaler

SECONDARY sponsors Gov. Bongbong Marcos and Kitty Jacinto

FLOWER girl Nicole Lhuillier with her daddy Charles

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

REYES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Cesar and Virgie Reyes celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Jan. 27. They will renew their marriage vows today at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Church in La Union. Joining them in their celebration are their children, Kat, Carlynne and Charisse, and their friends, Ramon and Agnes Dumuk, Rey and Wilda Navalta, Benny and Bing Aganon, Fiscal Dado and Judge Tita Villarin, (ret.) Cmdr. Jorge and Leony de Vera, Sonny and Tess Espinosa, Joey and Evelyn Bulatao, Ruel and Bella Perez, Paul and Beth Dyquiangco, Benny and Malu Ragudo and Chito and Eleanor Concepcion.

ARANETA DEBUT

Marie Brittany Bonifacio Araneta, eldest daughter of engineer Bernardo and Daisy Araneta, celebrated her 18th birthday on Jan. 29 with a dinner-dance at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Britt, a tennis varsity player, is a BS Legal Management freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University. Her gown was designed by Randy Ortiz. Photography by Ralph Alejandrino.

TAMAYO-SAN JUAN

Randy Quinto Tamayo, son of Eduardo and Anacleta Tamayo of Calasiao, Pangasinan, married recently Alma Aquino San Juan, daughter of Benjamin and Trinidad San Juan of Mangaldan, Pangasinan, at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish Church in Mangaldan.

Reception followed at the Justin Hall, Leisure Coast Resort, Dagupan City.

Luchi Vicente created the clothes of the bride and her entourage and the groom.

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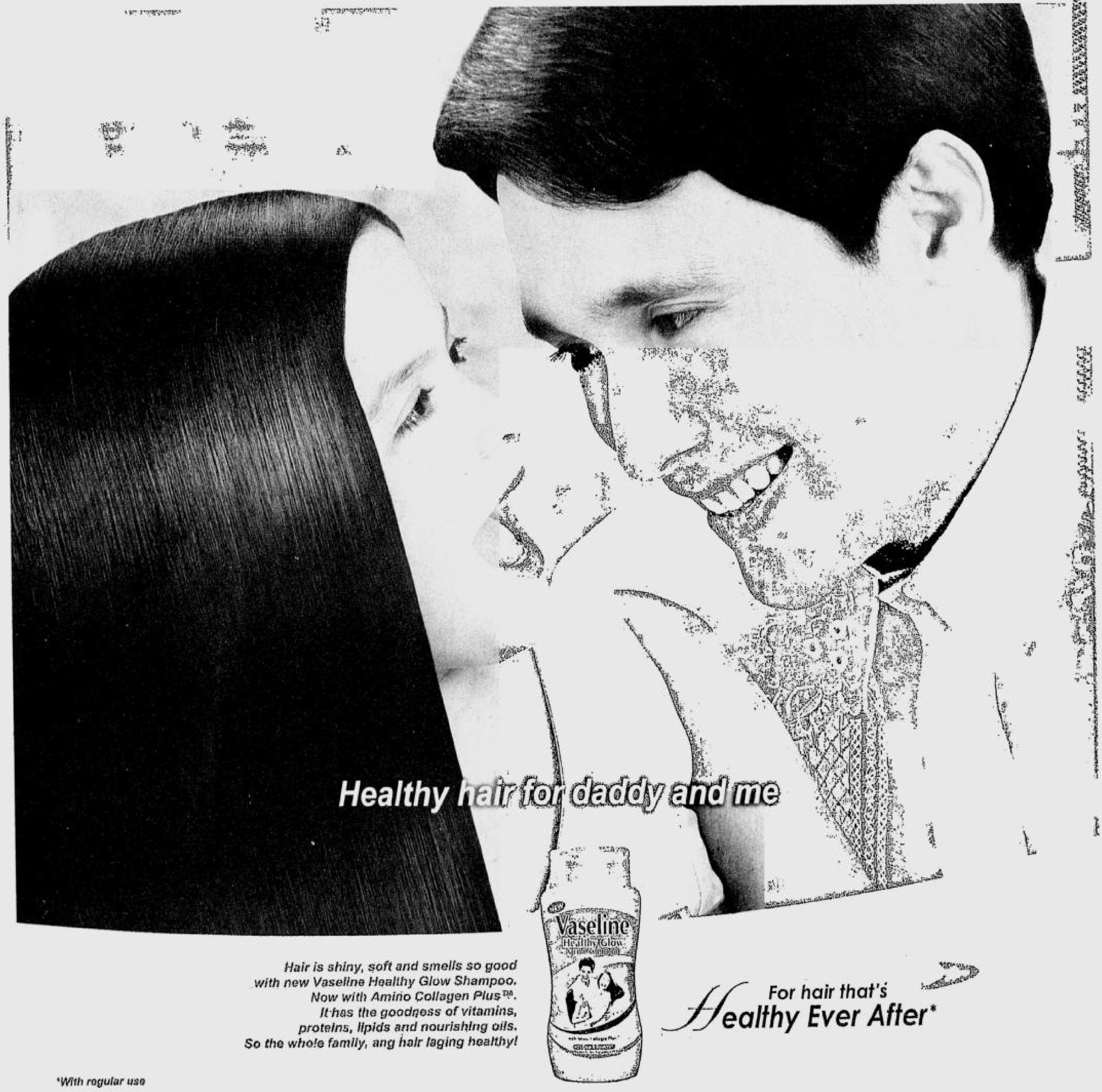
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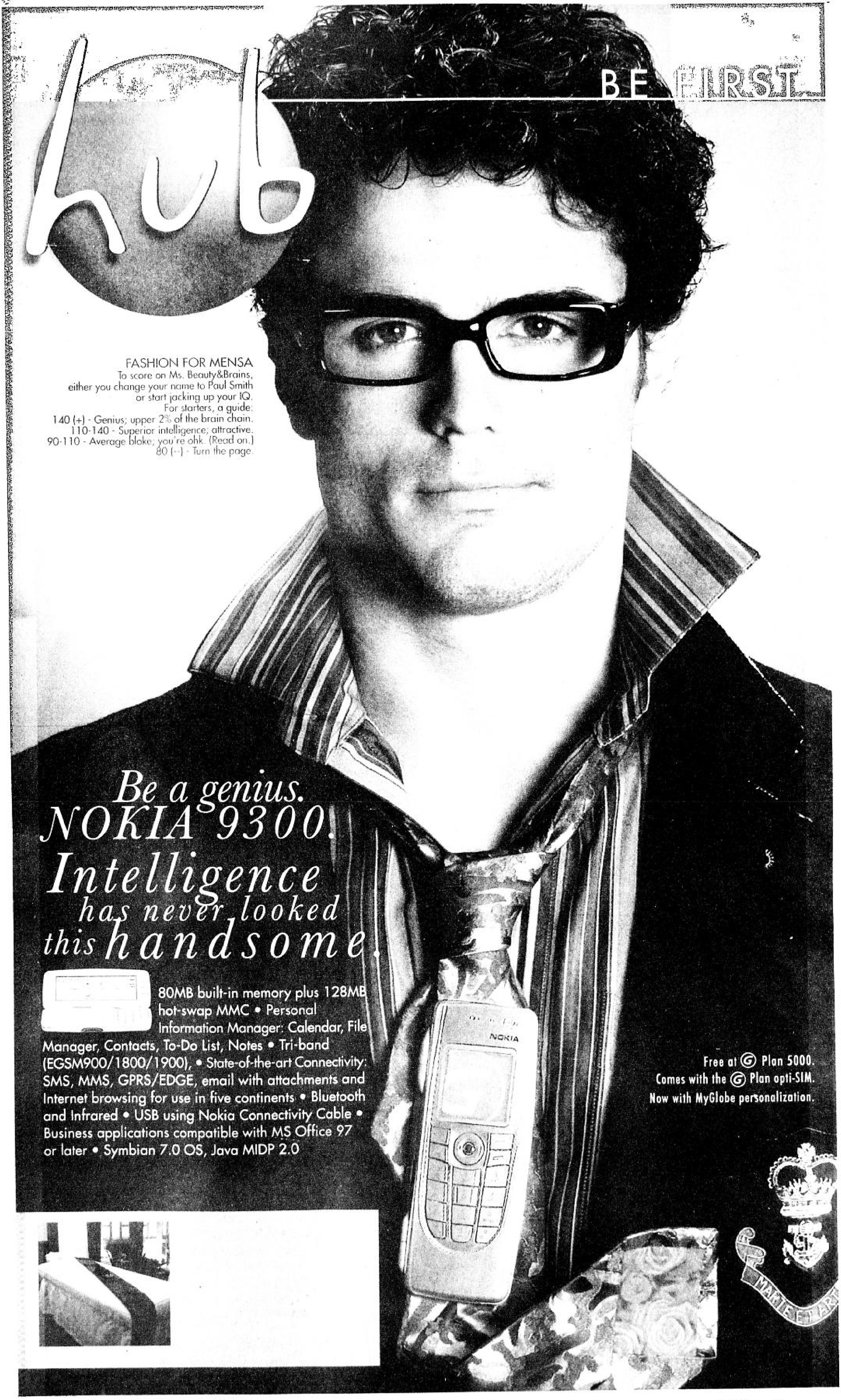

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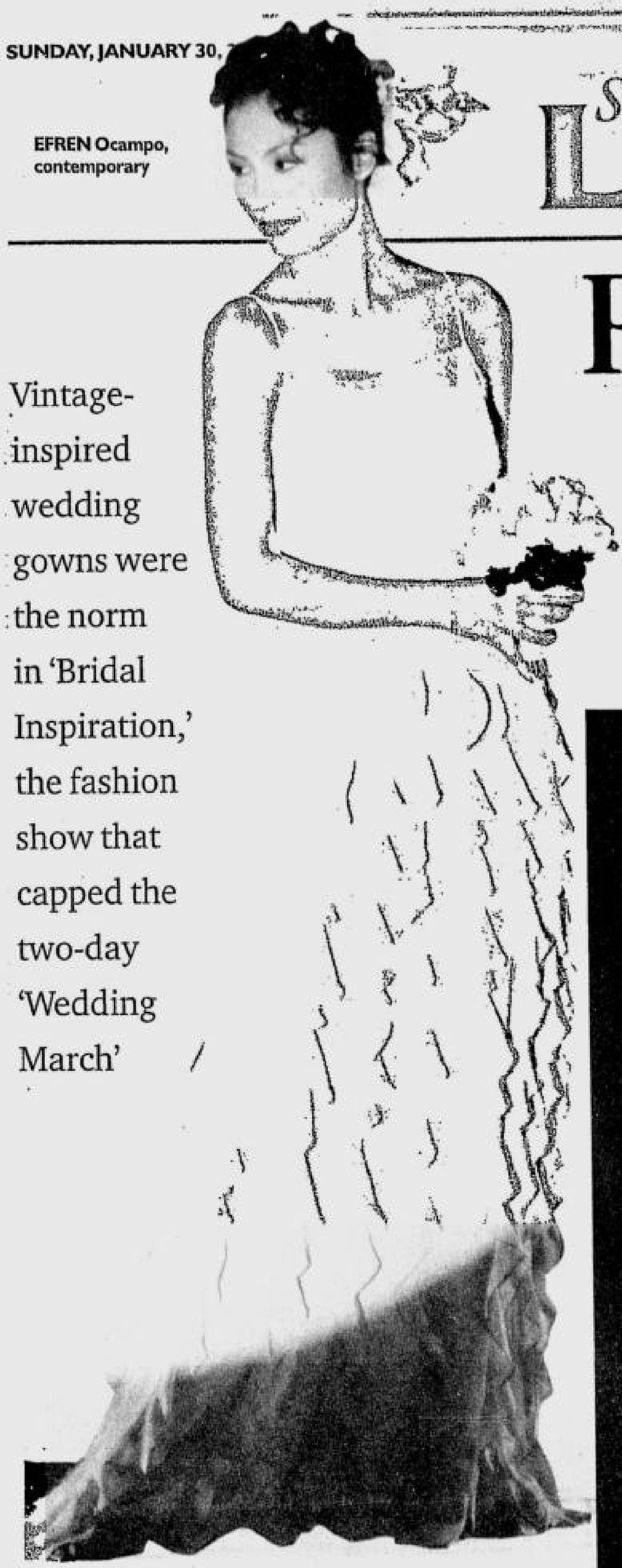
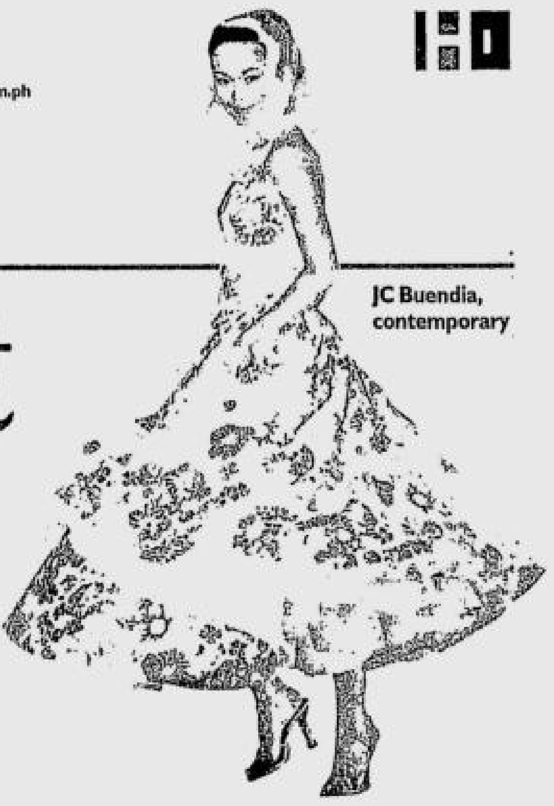


EFREN Ocampo, contemporary

Past-perfect bridal visions

Vintage-inspired wedding gowns were the norm in 'Bridal Inspiration,' the fashion show that capped the two-day 'Wedding March'



JC Buendia, contemporary

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Karl Sumbeling

TWELVE of the country's leading couturiers drew inspiration from bygone decades spanning the 1920s to the 1980s to come up with their individual takes on the modern wedding gown.

Vintage-inspired creations and more contemporary pieces by such names as Auggie Cordero, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mike de la Rosa, Efren Ocampo, Loretto, Frederick Peralta, Anthony Nocom, Eric Pineda, JC Buendia and Eddie Baddeo were featured last Sunday in "The Bridal Inspiration."

The fashion show directed by Raymond Villanueva capped off "Wedding March," a two-day wedding fair at the NBC Tent organized and sponsored by INQUIRER Sunday Lifestyle and cbv7 Media Master. Leading makeup artist Patrick Rosas and his team did the models' hair and makeup, and Tony Rodriguez provided the flowers.

Despite their attempts to mine various looks from the past, the designers were still able to infuse their trademark styles into their respective creations. Otherwise, doing an exact replica from a previous era, as Cordero stressed later, would have reduced their gowns into costumes.

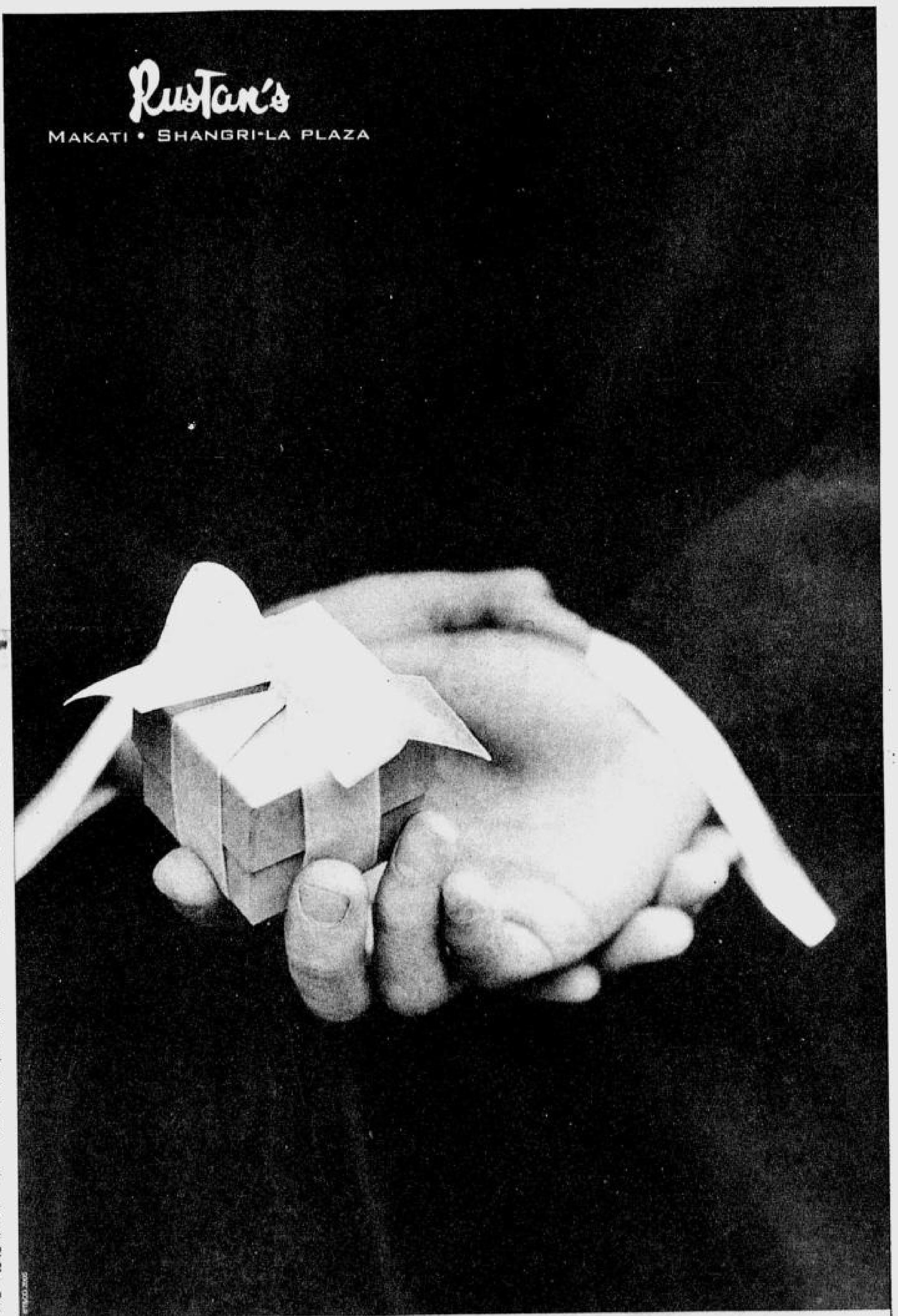
Favorite decade

Cordero, for instance, did a pair of gowns with elements that harked back to his favorite decade: the 1950s. Considered by many as the golden age of couture, it was also during this decade when Audrey Hepburn, the designer's virtual muse, reigned supreme wearing one Givenchy number after another.

PAST-PERFECT/ H2

JOJIE Lloren, contemporary

FREDERICK Peralta, contemporary



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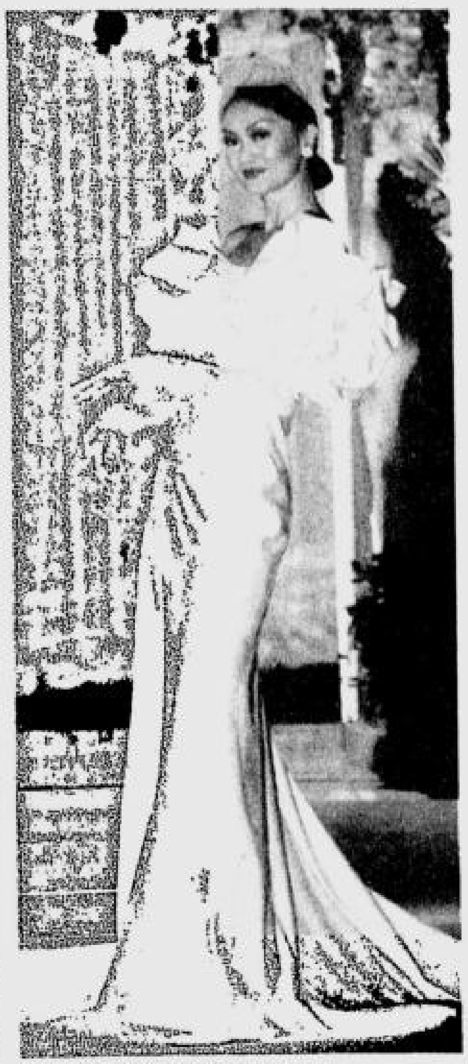
PATRICE Ramos-Diaz, 1920s


EDDIE Baddeo, 1980s

EDDIE Baddeo, contemporary

LORETTO, contemporary

Past-perfect bridal visions

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz, contemporary

ANTHONY Nocom, 1950s

RAJO Laurel, contemporary

From page H1

Senior models Abbygale Arenas and Apples Aberin wore similar corset gowns made of satin in pale pink and oyster, respectively. Cordero updated the look by making the skirts—one a princess-cut number, the other a bouffant—softer to give them a more "Sarah Jessica Parker" feel. Both gowns were partially embellished with either Guipure or Chantilly lace on bodices and hints of beadwork on skirts.

Peralta and menswear designer Nocom also derived ideas from the 1950s for their respective retro-inspired pieces.

Peralta did away with his penchant for embellishment in favor of a surprisingly toned-down strapless empire-cut number in Mikado silk with a pair of flaps and hints of beadwork on the bodice.

He reserved the drama for real-life lovers G Töngi and her Caucasian boyfriend, who wore a beige coattail. For his contemporary number, the designer came up with a figure-hugging and fully sequined chiffon column.

True to his roots as one of SM's in-house designers, Nocom did a wearable tuxedo with a cream jacket and black pants fashioned from sharkskin. The silhouette was a bit tapered compared to his modern all-black tuxedo.

Lloren didn't allow himself to be limited by the austere fashion of the 1940s, a time when fabrics were in short supply because of the war. On the contrary, it enabled him to show his expertise in tailoring to ample advantage in a slim dove-gray number made of duchess satin with a stylized ribbon at the back.

In lieu of a voluminous train, the designer fashioned a pair of collars and extended coattail for visual drama. A stylized pillbox hat took the place of a veil, while a pair of darker trims on the bodice was actually the reverse side of the fabric.

He later showed another close-to-the-body number in the contemporary portion that emphasized shape instead of skin. The two-piece outfit consisted of a structured Thai silk top with an exaggerated mandarin collar and a semi-beaded chiffon skirt.

Pineda tried to capture the feel of the 1930s in a flowing satin gown with lacy cap sleeves, veil and embroidered and semi-beaded tulle as overskirt. Apart from the gown, the designer also showed his expertise in men's apparel by fashioning an off-white cropped jacket and black pants.

The bow tie, however, was anything but vintage, as Pineda had to run to the mall hours before the show to buy one at Ermenigildo Zegna. He was reportedly inspired by the same pieces worn by his paternal grandparents during their Commonwealth period wedding.

Antique feel

Ramos-Diaz and De la Rosa came up with their respective versions of a 1920s wedding gown. For a change, the former eschewed her preference for deconstruction and the unfinished look with a soft, empire-cut chiffon number wrapped in lace.

She chose beige over white lace for a more antique feel. Since the period produced silhouettes that were cut away from the body, she draped her gown with a sheer overlap coat with short, loose sleeves that extended all the way to the back. Far from looking mannish, however, the gown captured the designer's trademark romantic look.

PAST-PERFECT/ H4

AUGGIE Cordero, 1950s

Torn between an Aussie and a Yankee

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

I'm 23 years old and I have a 50-year-old Australian boyfriend. I met him through correspondence more than a year ago. He has been to the Philippines many times to visit me and my mother. He is a shearing contractor and lamb exporter. He is a good man, intelligent and hard working. I like him a lot and I love him. Even though we have a big age gap, we get along so well together. We exchange letters and talk on the phone twice a month.

He said he wanted to marry me. He already brought engagement and wedding rings last December but had to have them fixed in Australia to fit my finger. He is retiring soon and would like us to live here where it is cheaper. He said not to worry about our future because he had investments and money put away for his retirement and future family. I told him I'd like us to live in his country and he said he would think about it.

Later, I got a response from an American to a posting I made on the Web last year. He is 30 years old and he works in the military in New York. I told him about my boyfriend but he was persistent. He said he would come to the Philippines in March to meet me. He said he was a good man and would like to know me better. If we liked each other, he said he'd marry me and we would live in the United States. He told me that there were a lot of opportunities in the US for me and he'd help me fulfill my dreams.

I'm confused now. What is the right thing to do? Should I meet this other man and give him a chance? Is it worth giving up my boyfriend for him?

ANNA

You aren't married yet to this Australian, are you? You can meet anybody you want! You're still as free as a bird—as the wind, as the waves. You can do anything—absolutely anything your young heart desires! You're basically window shopping at this time.

There's nothing wrong about getting to know this American. This is best in the long run. Meeting him will not necessarily make you give up your boyfriend. This will only allow you to test how strong your bond is with your Australian boyfriend.

When making your decision, think of yourself first, foremost and always. Don't be carried away by smooth talk—talk is cheap. Don't be swayed by good looks—time ravages beauty. Don't be swept off by the surging emotions of the moment. As in tsunamis, their highs are inversely proportional to their lows—they quieten and die down and you're left with reality.

Don't rush with your choice, no matter if there's a plane to catch. You can continue the conversation through e-mail, phone calls and personal appearances. Take your time. You have youth on your side. Unless, of course, you are looking for a quick ticket to ride out of here...

Harmless friendship?

I've been married 16 years to a basically good husband and we have two children. My problem started when I met a guy at work. I think I'm falling in love with him. He is also married.

There was instant chemistry between us. Our conversations are such fun that I think of him constantly and I look forward to his visits to where I work.

In November we started spending time together at least once a week. I don't want this to end because, in my mind, we're not really doing anything wrong.

Is it wrong for an adult to feel the way I'm feeling? I'm like a high-school girl excited about her crush. My emotions are getting out of control. Please help me. Do I stop this beautiful friendship?

SMB

How can you be so naive as to say you aren't really doing anything wrong? In your neck of the woods, is it normal for a married woman to fall in love and spend time with a man other than her husband? Methinks not! If you were both single and available, I'd sing praises to high heavens for serendipity.

But you're both married and it leaves a bad taste in the mouth to feign innocence! I don't know how he feels about you, but your feelings for him are definitely going off kilter.

The passion of love is so oh terribly breathtaking, fantastically overwhelming that it engulfs and consumes your whole being like a fever!

You think about him 24 hours a day and can't wait for tomorrow to come. You feel giddy when you wake up in the morning and your heart starts pounding when you reach your office hoping to catch a glimpse of him. But, while roller-coaster rides are exciting, too much of it can make you sick!

Unless you plan to leave this "basically good husband" and go into the sunset with the other guy, you better think things over. In this age of throwaways and instant gratification, rein in your emotions a bit. Control your careening mind and think hard. Some coal-hot loves are self-limiting and they tend to cool off after they have run their course! Are you ready to flush down the drain 16 years for this untested man?

And don't forget, when you start carving your decision in stone, to include in your equation the two families—particularly the children—involved here. It's not just the two of you, anymore.

Send your e-mail to emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday- Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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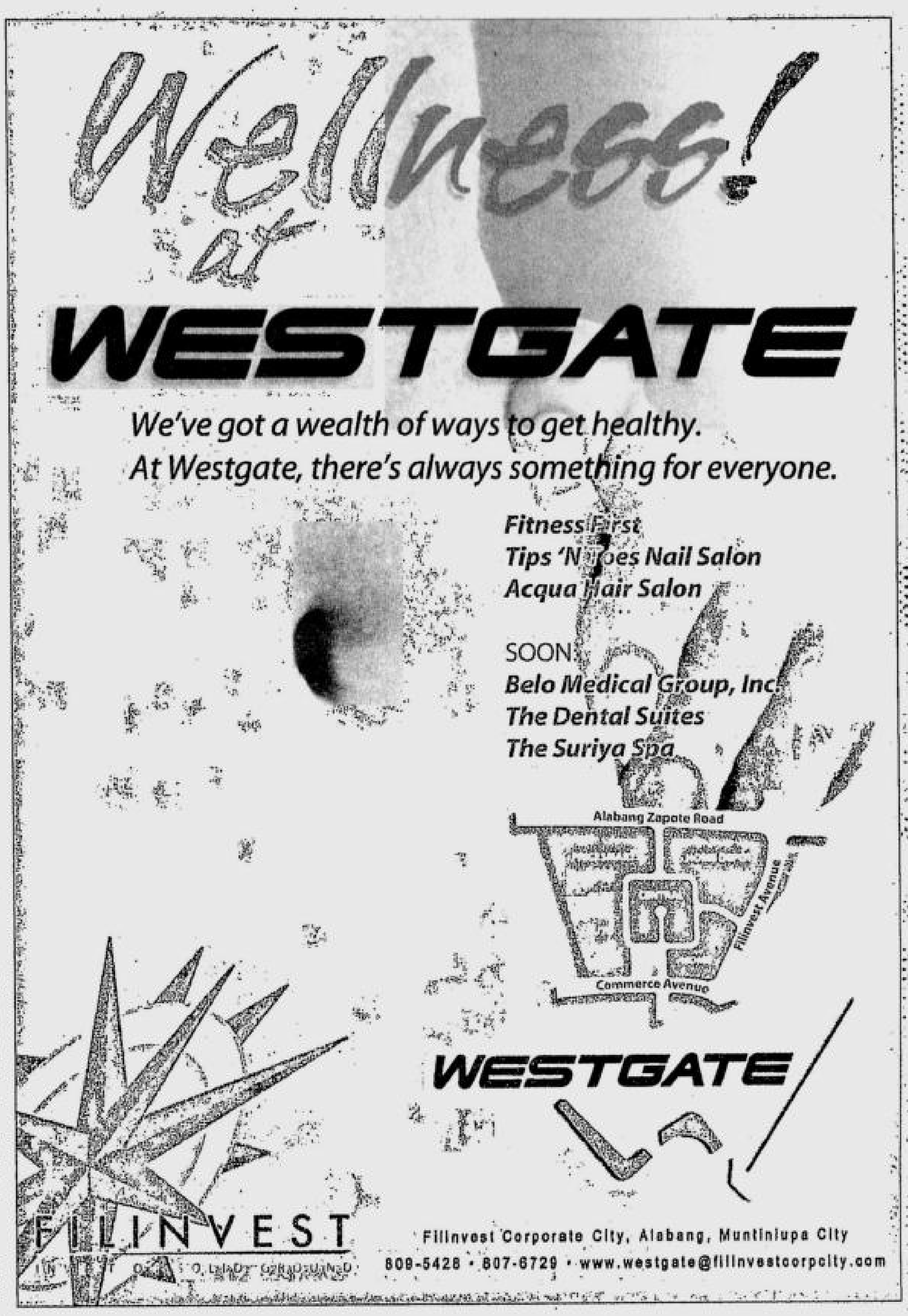
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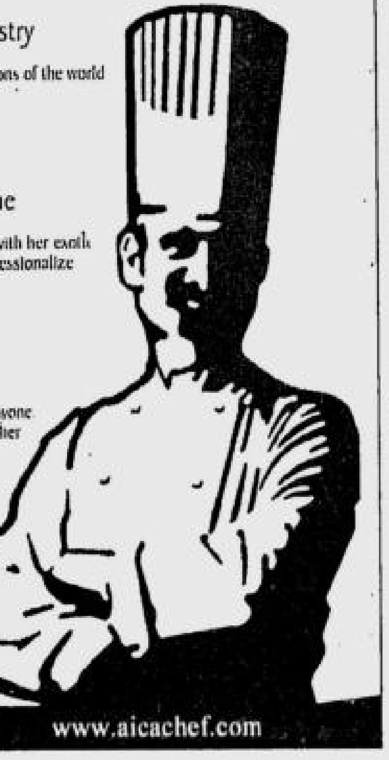

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JC Buendia, 1970s

ERIC Pineda, 1930s

Past-perfect bridal visions

From page H2

Despite the loose silhouette reminiscent of the era, De la Rosa also managed to come up with a gown that exuded femininity. He successfully softened the gown's plunging neckline, which was also mirrored at the back, with tiers of ruffles and cords with frayed edges.

Ocampo came up with one of the evening's best and most wearable pieces: a spaghetti-strapped powder blue column with ruffles that descended beautifully from the skirt's waist to its hem. The gown is a timeless gem that's anything but boring and easy to construct.

Buendia, who's also famous for superb tailoring and structured lines, did clothes of more recent vintage. His 1970s-inspired ivory wedding gown was his take on Halston: a bias-cut, halter-necked number made of duchess satin. The groom wore a dark, single-buttoned suit.

Oddly enough, he had to travel two decades earlier to come up with his contemporary ensemble: a floral-printed, halter dress made of cotton chintz cut below the knee that reminded us of Gwyneth Paltrow's 1950s character in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

True enough, the designer toyed with the idea of lovers who eloped and got married in the Italian countryside. Except for his pair of Chuck Taylors, however, the groom looked polished in a cream five-button suit made of tropical wool. The look's cute, ad-hoc quality provided a much-needed respite to creations by some designers who took themselves a bit too seriously.

Showstoppers

Not that doing so was a sin; especially where it concerned Baddeo. The underrated designer, who can easily give not a few of the senior designers a run for their money, did three showstopping pieces that once more proved his creativity and dedication to his craft.

As far as we know, Baddeo is the only designer who treats such group shows as if they were his gala. And his recent turn was no different, as he used it as another opportunity to prove how good and driven he was. As they say in gayspeak, his every move spelled "career" to the max.

Not content with getting three of the industry's most seasoned mannequins, he hired the services of makeup artist Eric Maningat and his team to exclusively do their hair and makeup. Again, all of Baddeo's efforts weren't in vain.

He came up with a winner in Marina Benipayo's Christian Lacroix-inspired duchess satin number that harked back to the 1980s. The model hammed it up onstage to the music of Madonna's "Like a Virgin" in what appeared to be a pair of ribbon-like puffed sleeves that were actually made of mini bustles. The rest of her arms were wrapped in lace that seemed to double as gloves.

Spanish lace was also the dominant material in his other gown, a more contemporary column with an extended train that drew inspiration from the 1950s. His third gown had a detachable cathedral train fashioned from dupioni silk and—this time—yards upon yards of French lace.

Like most of his colleagues, Baddeo wisely steered clear of duplicates of wedding gowns from decades past. After all, wearing a costume is certainly the last thing a modern and discerning bride would want to do while exchanging vows.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

MIKE de la Rosa, contemporary

RAJO Laurel, 1960s

MIKE de la Rosa, 1920s

LORETTO, 1970s

JOJIE Lloren, 1940s

FREDERICK Peralta, 1950s

Dear and rare photo album

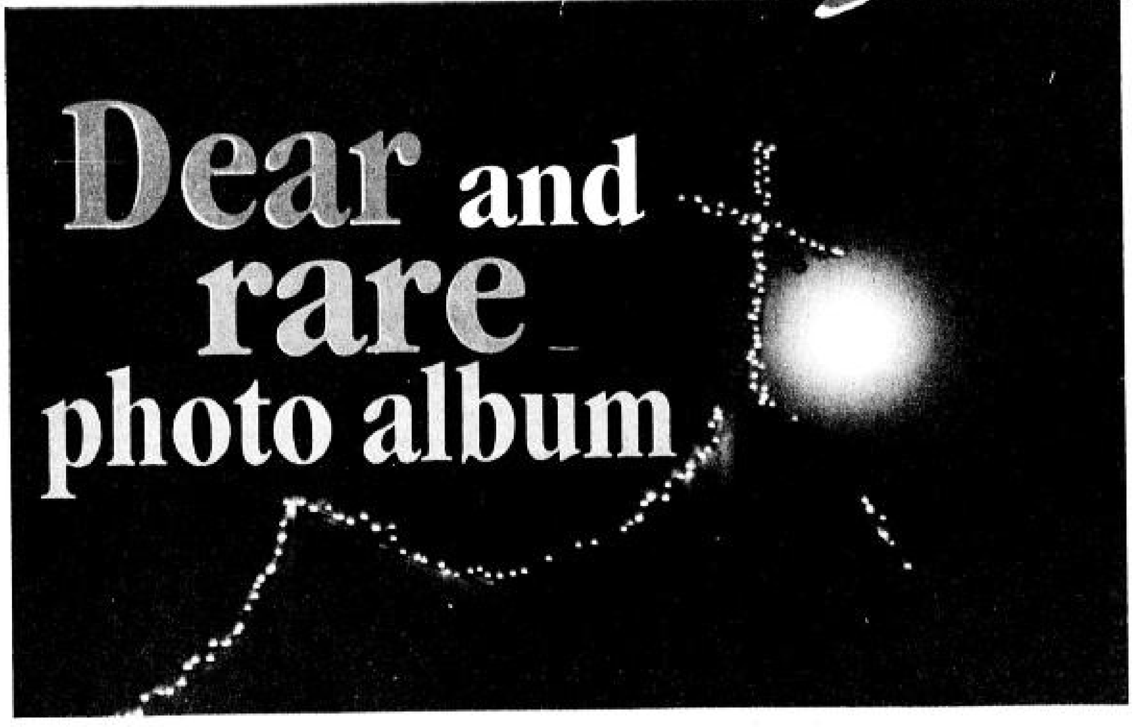

PHOTO by Dick Trofeo

By Antonio D. Lilles
Contributor

THE CAMERA Club of the Philippines' first and very own coffee-table book is now available to the general public.

Ever since I joined the club in 1990, older members had been dreaming about our very own full-fledged photo book showcasing our very own work.

Although the membership was happy with some publications of the best images by members, it continued to harbor the dream of an honest-to-goodness coffee-table book of international caliber.

But we were hampered by difficulties in collecting materials, finding funding or sponsorship, and looking for a design to satisfy our exacting standards.

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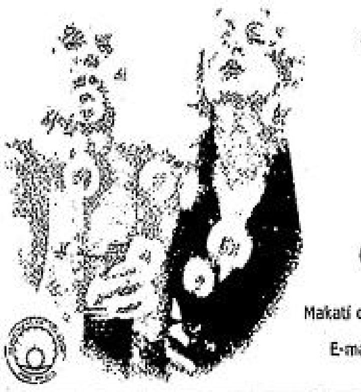

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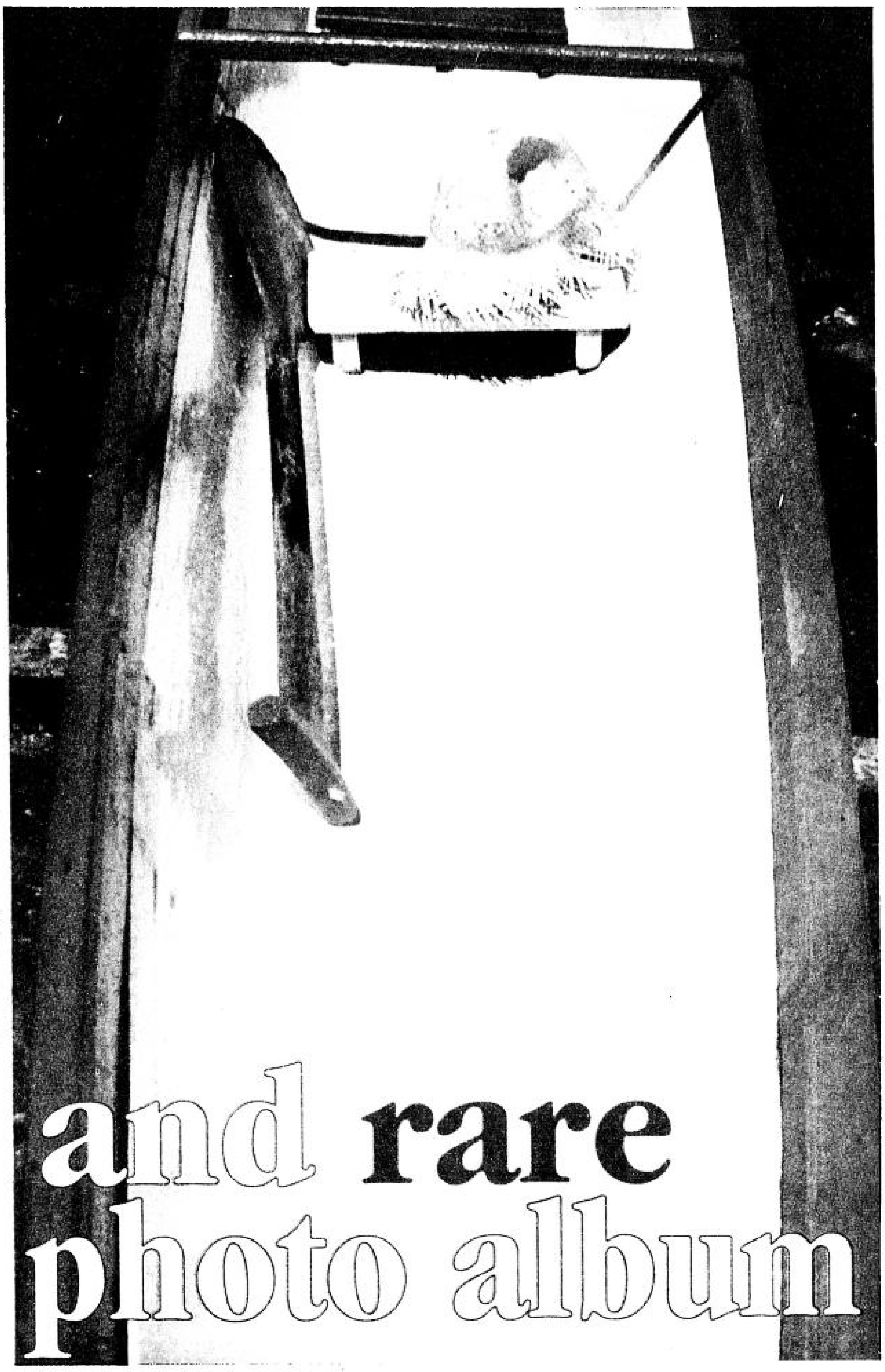
AT THE BOOK launch last December: Camera Club presidents Raul Montifar for 2005, Patrick Uy for 2004, Lex Media president Dennis Valdes and vice president Alex Reyes, CCP Book project director Tony Lilies

BY Tony Lilles

Dear and rare photo album

The Camera Club of the Philippines collects 75 years of beautiful images in a coffee-table book



BY Judes Echauz

From page l1

teers.

We could cite publications that were either sponsored or supported by advertisers, who eventually took the credit and wrested editorial control from the publishers. Thus, quality was compromised.

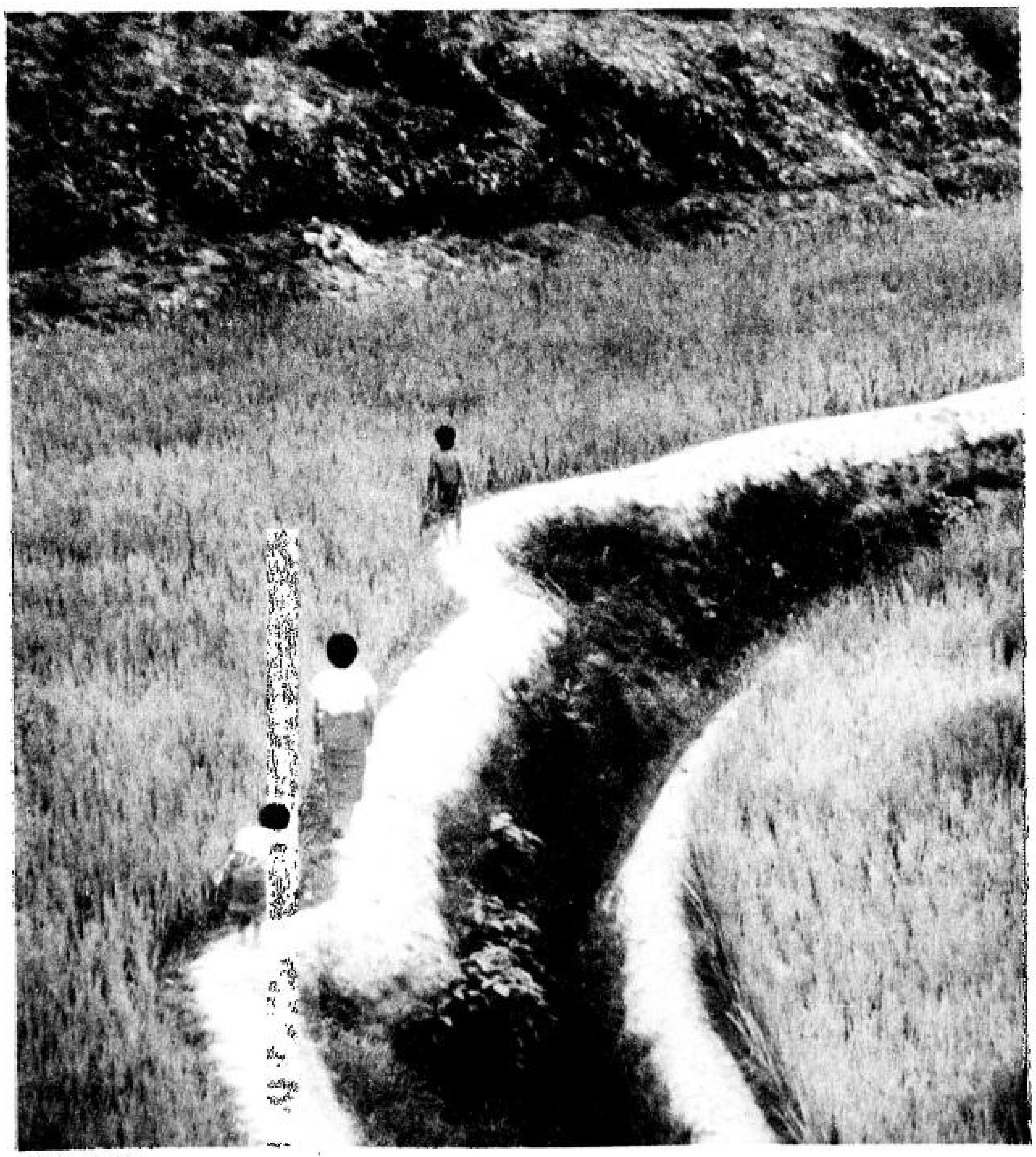
A year after our 75th anniversary, a new printing company called Lex Media, a division of the Print Town Group in Mamplasan, Laguna, opened. With the latest, cutting-edge printing technology available today, this company locally printed this book of our dreams in the quality and price that rivaled those of Singapore's and Hong Kong's.

Thanks to the images collected in our archives for the 75th anniversary project last year, we were able to achieve in four months what, I am told, would have normally taken a year to produce. Plus, we stayed in the Philippines, relying on a local printing company and avoiding the added costs in duty had we printed abroad.

This book makes a great coffee-table book for your friends, a source of pride for our country. Anyone into photography must make this book a part of his collection.

The book has 184 pages of photographs with a foreword by leading member Jaime Zobel de Ayala. It is edited by Franco Patriarca, with the club's "History" written by Bobby Paterno and updated by outgoing club president Lito Quimel. Production and layout was done by member Emil Davocol of Photography Light Images.

The copies are limited, so the book is bound to be a collector's item. The softbound copies go for P1,500 each while the hardbound copies, for P2,500. Available at Dome restaurants and Tinder Box stores in Metro Manila. Call 8942987.



BY Albert Chiu

BY Quincy Castillo

DON Santiago Picornell with his daughter Ma. Pilar Escaño (right) and granddaughter Ana Maria Escaño (left)

THE PRESIDENT of the Casino Español de Cebu Roberto Aboitiz and his wife Marian (née Cabarrus)

BUILDING committee members Eddie Gonzalez and architect Tessie Javier

Rousing welcome for new year at new Casino Español

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

EIGHT hundred formally dressed guests attended the inaugural ball of the Casino Español de Cebu on New Year's Eve. Though the event was supposed to begin at 8 p.m., most tables were filled about an hour before that.

It was announced there would be no reservations, and it would be first-come first-served. Many were there as early as 6 p.m., to attend the Mass officiated by Msgr. Achilles Dakay.

Welcoming everyone were Roberto and Marian Aboitiz. He is the current president of the casino. Other officers who were there included vice president Cheling and Susan Sala, secretary Rico and Judith Gandionco, house chair Bunny and Allen Pages, sports director Jimmy and Ellen Escaño, and Cebu City Councilor Gabby Leyson, director for social and cultural events.

That the event was going to be a success was evident from the very start. Everyone had ample time to greet each other a Happy New Year.

Dinner was announced at 9 p.m., and served on six buffet tables in areas adjoining the ballroom. Dance music also started playing about this time, so those who wanted to enjoy their meal quietly repaired to the Cervantes Hall.

The service was excellent, supervised by the Casino Español's manager Rudy Ruby; executive consultant Robert Lilja, who made sure buffet tables were constantly replenished; and Gema Luisa Pido, the food consultant.

Single and pretty, she received as many invitations to dance as congratulations for a wonderful menu.

Retro to disco

The Renaissance Band, Cebu's top musical group, led by Ramon Villanueva, provided lively music from retro to disco, from swing and fox-trot to the cha-cha-cha. They played to a packed dance floor until way past 11 p.m.

Then it was time for Onda Latina (from Manila) to take over for the rest of the night until the wee hours of New Year's Day. It's a pity, though, that neither band played a single *paso doble*. Mon Villanueva asked Cheling Sala for some discs or tapes, so his band could start learning it.

How about a waltz or two? someone asked, while another wondered if everyone had forgotten the slow drag.

At one point of the evening, the building committee was asked to join the officers up front to receive due applause for the magnificent structure that the Casino Español was. All accounted for were: architect Tessie Javier, Ed Gonzalez, Luis Moro, Rolando Jarantilla, Cisco Jarque, Earl Kokseng, Nonoy Alba, Jefren Pages, Manuel Guanzon, and the presidents under whose terms construction started—Jess Cuenco and Ed Misa.

Countdown to midnight

The music's tempo picked up after 11:30 p.m., as everyone rushed to the dance area. Groups formed circles, others joined a winding conga line, and the rest just stood swaying, clapping their hands, and shouting "*Feliz Año.*"

It was the countdown to midnight. Whistles and trumpets were blown, the chandeliers were dimmed, and showers of metallic paper confetti rained on the frenzied crowd. Could anyone hear the music? They played the Mexican Hat Dance! And so everyone jumped, twirled, jumped, twirled. What fun it was.

No one heard the firecrackers outside, masterminded by Milagring Sembrabo from her fully lit mansion. At the stroke of midnight, everyone in the casino went on a kissing and embracing spree. Like old times, winked Angelita Lhuillier to my father, Santiago Picornell. They remember those times so vividly it was sheer pleasure listening to their stories from way back when.

A gathering of royalties

This was the first time a New Year's Eve ball at the Casino Español was a formal affair; in years past it was a costume ball. Vivina Chiu Yrastorza, though, came in costume, a very regal one at that—a queen from a medieval tale. She did not have to explain to everyone she knew she had another party to go to.

That was the Royalty Watch ball Carlos and Mariquita Yeung were giving at their house on Nivel Hills, with guests coming from London, Hong Kong, and elsewhere lugging trunks that held the most elaborate royal robes.

Mariquita herself was in shimmering gold as Cleopatra, and Carlos was Marc Anthony, of course. Carrying on with the Egyptian theme as well were Fermin and Flor Ynclino, dressed as characters right out of "Aida." The same went for Chito and Angela Paulin.

Martin Yeung was Achilles and his sister Karla was Helen of Troy, while younger sibling Jewel was an Amazonian princess. Monet Aliño chose to be Hera, queen of Olympus; Benjie Diola, a Thai monarch as in "King and I"; Toto Chan, an emperor from old China in full regalia; Chad and Mae Salimbangon, Viking royals.

Catching up with the fun at 3 a.m. were Michel and Amparito Lhuillier. All she needed for the perfect regal stance was a tiara.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Holy Land, Jordan tour organized

A PILGRIMAGE tour of the Holy Land in Israel plus historic and religious sites in Jordan is being organized. The tour begins in Amman, Madaba (archaelogical site known for its Byzantine mosaic treasures and the Church of the Virgin Mary), Mt. Nebo (where Moses is buried) and Petra (Hidden City with its beautiful monuments) in Jordan.

The Israel leg will cover Yardenit, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tagbha, Mt. of Beatitudes, Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Ceasarea, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, All Nations Church, Dominus Flevit, Mt. Zion, St. Peter's Church in Gallicantu, Dormition Abbey, Old City, Pool of Bethsaida, Holy Sepulchre Church, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, among others.

Call 8154938 or 8156925 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.

Suites available at half the price

OXFORD Suites brings back its 50-percent-off promo. Until May 31, prices are $45++ for Superior Suite, $55++ for Executive Suite, $75++ for the Deluxe Suite and $250++ for the penthouse unit, the O Suite.

Managed by BRYCL Resorts International, Oxford Suites offers fully furnished Superior, Executive, Deluxe, Junior and One-Bedroom Suites plus the top of the line O Suite. Amenities include a well-equipped gym, on-call masseuse, satellite television, in-room safety deposit box, coffee and tea making facilities, mini bar, laundry and pressing services, coffee shop, business center and three levels of parking area.

The 50-percent-off promo is open to local residents and foreign guests.

Oxford Suites is located at the corner of Durban and P. Burgos Sts., Makati City. Call the eight-digit hotel number, 67003333, or the reservations hotline 8990548 or log on to www.oxfordsuites-makati.com.

Experience Palawan

THE LEGEND Hotel Palawan in Puerto Princesa is offering the Palawan Experience (PAX) package, which includes organized tours and well-planned itineraries. Through the PAX package, The Legend Hotel Palawan offers economical packages to make it easy for people to explore the province's various attractions.

The Family package is only P9,999 net per person while the Couple package costs P8,999 net per person. Both packages include three-day/two-night accommodations at The Legend Hotel Palawan, full board meals, buffet at Tanglaw Restaurant with option to dine out on the first night, set meal only. Guests also get complimentary coffee or tea during their stay.

The tour package includes half a day at Honda Bay Island on the first day and a whole day Underground River tour with side trip to the Vietnamese Village on the second day.

In the Family package, a maximum of two kids aged 2-11, enjoy free meals, tours and accommodation (sharing bed with parents/guardian).

Both Family and Couple packages include a PAX souvenir item, welcome drinks and fruit basket, tour host services and round-trip airport transfers.

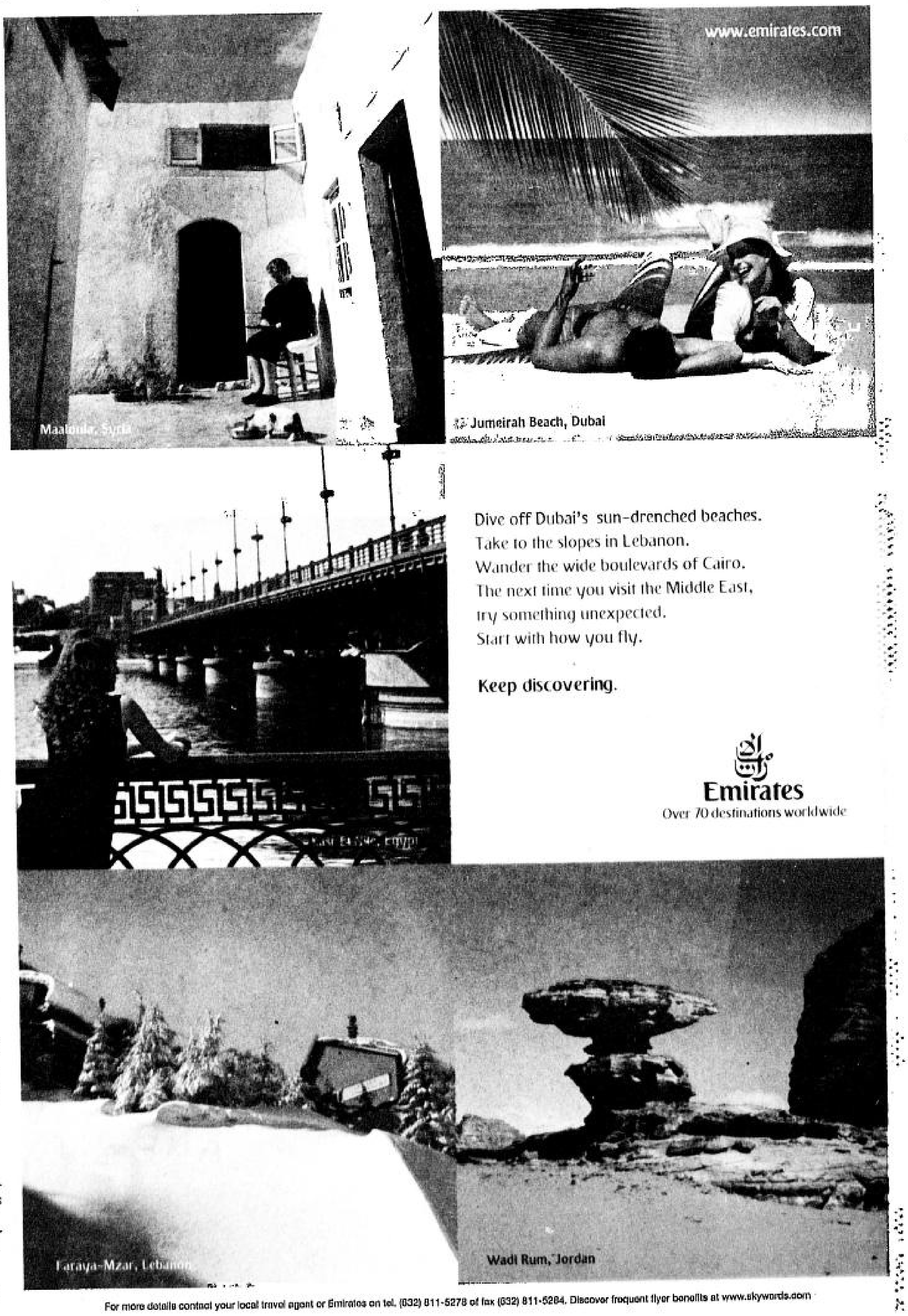
Call 6389256/6388396 or visit the Manila Sales Office at 60 Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1500. Visit www.palawanexperience.com.ph.

Verde Island Resort's diving rate

THE MARINE ecosystem around Isla Verde, Batangas City—the home of Verde Island Resort—is a marine sanctuary to 13 world-class diving spots rich in untold numbers of colorful reef fish and dolphins that can only be found in the tropical waters of Batangas Bay, south of Batangas City and north of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

Verde Island Resort is offering a reasonably priced diving package which starts at P5,500 per person, good for two days and one night stay. The package includes roundtrip boat transfers (Batangas City-Resort-Batangas City), welcome drink upon arrival, full board meals, and overnight accommodation in an airconditioned Vila or Casa based in twin sharing with private bath, cable TV, in-house telephone system and a veranda fronting the sea. The diving package also includes free use of the resort's recreational facilities such as swimming pool with hydro massage for adults and kids, beach volleyball, view deck, dart, cards, and board games.

Call (632) 7500466 or (632) 7500470 and look for Ana Gonzaga.



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TO ALL THE LUCKY KWARTA KARD HOLDERS

WITH THE WINNING COMBINATION OF:

week 11
JAN 22, 05 - 21 17 09 29 03 02 11
JAN 24, 05 - 27 11 16 06 05 19 08
JAN 25, 05 - 28 16 03 08 05 07 20
JAN 26, 05 - 23 04 29 24 09 27 10
JAN 27, 05 - 07 30 14 24 06 09 22
JAN 28, 05 - 27 15 01 13 11 22 19

KUNG HAWAK MO ANG KWARTA KARD NA MAY KAPAREHAS NA NUMBER COMBINATION NA NAKALISTA, NANALO KA NG 100,000 PESOS!

PREVIOUS WINNING COMBINATIONS:

week 1
NOV 15, 04 - 05 23 08 16 15 07 30
NOV 16, 04 - 19 22 03 28 12 13 27
NOV 17, 04 - 01 28 27 24 09 30 04
NOV 18, 04 - 21 09 08 14 27 23 24
NOV 19, 04 - 05 25 23 12 18 06 14
NOV 20, 04 - 29 23 05 22 02 06 20

week 2
NOV 22, 04 - 15 05 17 10 26 04 24
NOV 23, 04 - 06 30 25 10 26 04 01
NOV 24, 04 - 19 23 04 15 28 29 25
NOV 25, 04 - 20 10 03 15 14 23 01
NOV 26, 04 - 10 09 17 01 30 04 28
NOV 27, 04 - 11 10 15 18 25 17 29

week 3
NOV 29, 04 - 12 16 30 09 19 01 20
NOV 30, 04 - 12 28 26 19 17 01 06
DEC 1, 04 - 19 22 27 28 06 30 09
DEC 2, 04 - 16 11 07 03 10 21 02
DEC 3, 04 - 26 18 24 29 30 07 11
DEC 4, 04 - 15 02 19 11 16 06 20

week 4
DEC 6, 04 - 23 03 25 02 12 27 17
DEC 7, 04 - 18 14 03 16 13 05 06
DEC 8, 04 - 09 05 23 12 28 17 13
DEC 9, 04 - 29 26 02 07 03 15 08
DEC 10, 04 - 24 04 14 26 10 19 29
DEC 11, 04 - 30 14 28 24 11 03 13

week 5
DEC 13, 04 - 08 23 16 03 26 02 17
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DEC 15, 04 - 13 14 01 16 21 17 07
DEC 16, 04 - 22 29 04 20 03 28 24
DEC 17, 04 - 07 13 02 28 17 23 06
DEC 18, 04 - 15 11 08 10 24 20 26

week 6
DEC 20, 04 - 21 28 04 25 09 11 19
DEC 21, 04 - 20 13 26 07 14 02 18
DEC 22, 04 - 16 18 28 02 21 01 27
DEC 23, 04 - 06 30 24 02 28 05 01
DEC 24, 04 - 07 18 22 09 13 15 29
DEC 25, 04 - 22 09 23 27 30 13 04

week 7
DEC 27, 04 - 05 26 09 17 06 12 25
DEC 28, 04 - 11 27 21 30 07 08 05
DEC 29, 04 - 25 12 22 01 18 28 21
DEC 30, 04 - 01 15 23 18 04 24 08
DEC 31, 04 - 17 28 24 26 19 08 05
JAN 1, 05 - 17 25 14 09 15 08 03

week 8
JAN 3, 05 - 27 21 19 17 13 30 24
JAN 4, 05 - 10 20 18 29 12 08 30
JAN 5, 05 - 20 08 09 23 26 27 18
JAN 6, 05 - 21 02 14 11 01 06 18
JAN 7, 05 - 26 10 23 09 17 15 07
JAN 8, 05 - 19 14 21 08 16 04 10

week 9
JAN 10, 05 - 05 20 26 16 15 24 19
JAN 11, 05 - 12 11 21 25 22 04 29
JAN 12, 05 - 11 07 25 02 22 29 20
JAN 13, 05 - 07 21 14 11 25 01 27
JAN 14, 05 - 20 23 18 25 10 07 13
JAN 15, 05 - 01 25 05 18 24 07 02

week 10
JAN 17, 05 - 24 29 12 06 26 13 27
JAN 18, 05 - 03 27 24 07 12 04 22
JAN 19, 05 - 12 27 22 16 17 25 06
JAN 20, 05 - 10 30 03 17 14 20 09
JAN 21, 05 - 06 22 30 04 13 14 18

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SALAMAT SA MGA SUMALI

AND HAVE A GOOD DAY WITH NESCAFÉ!

See posters for details.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1033 s. 2004

ANOTHER ADVENTURE BEGINS IN THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY COMICS!

Make way for first all-female comic mag

MANGO Jam, a 64-page bimonthly comic digest published by Mango Comics, breaks new ground as the country's first all-female comic magazine created entirely by girls for girls.

Edited, art directed, written and illustrated by girl-power talents, each issue features interviews, reviews, animé features and other articles of interest to young, fun-loving, intelligent Filipinas.

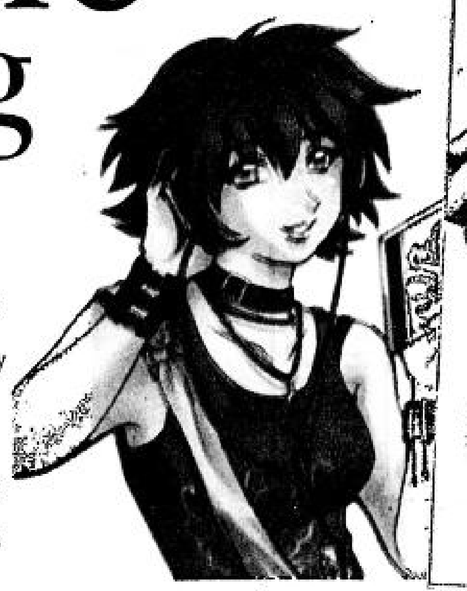
The first issue of Mango Jam comic magazine contains four stories written by notable female writers such as Palanca Award-winner Cyan Abad-Jugo, National Book Award-winner Nikki Go-Alfar, MTV Ink editor in chief Kristine Fonacier and pop culture writer Karen Kunawicz.

The stories are drawn by new female talents Glenda Abad, Maisa Deluria, Ellaine Guerrero and Mia Reyes in the popular manga or animé style of comic illustration created and popularized by the Japanese.

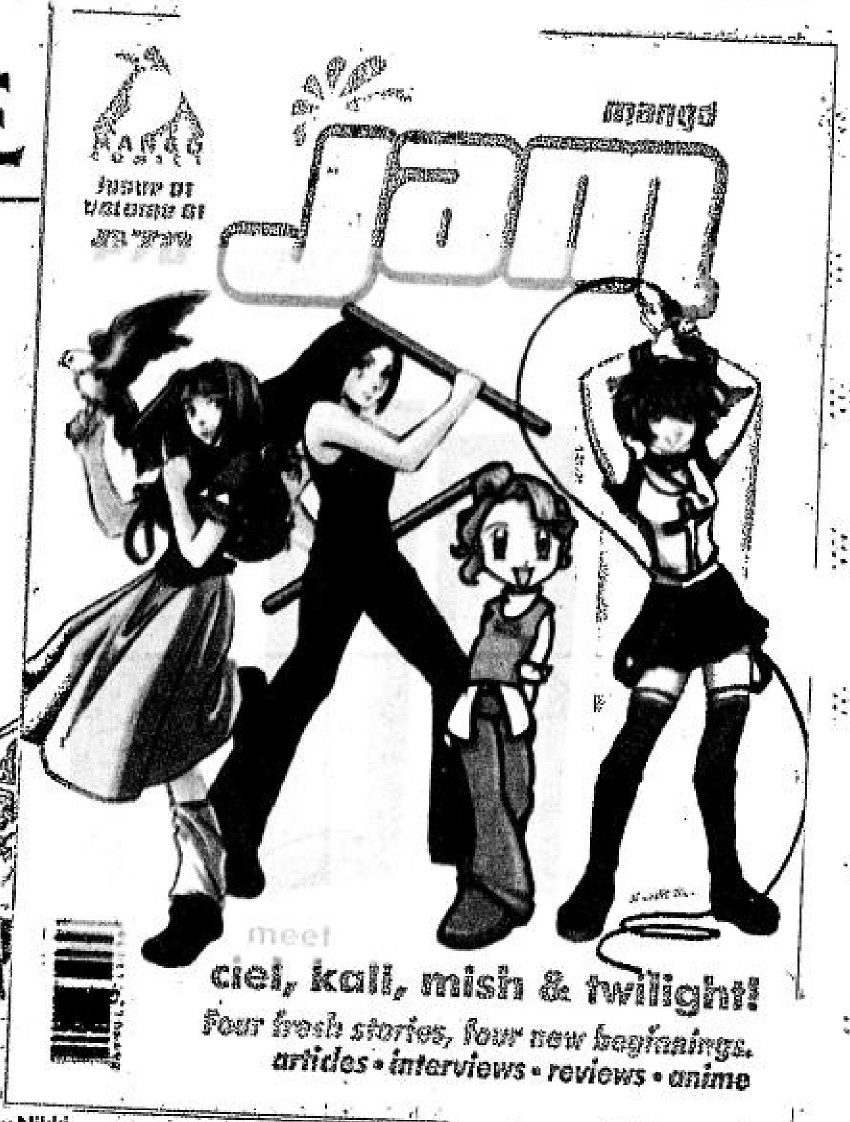
Even the business side is handled by females. Project manager is Pam Joaquin-Yonzon with Aila Sim in charge of advertising and marketing.

The mag was recently launched at the Shangri-La Plaza where "girls like us, girls like you" were treated to booth activities, games, and a fashion show. The first issue is available at book stores for P70.

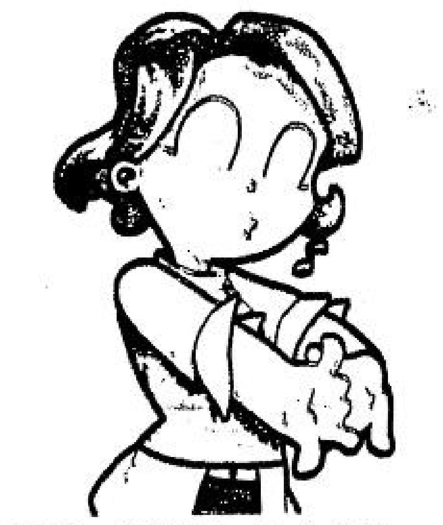
Mango Comics is also the publisher of Mwahaha, MooMoo Hunters, Mars Ravelo's Lastikman, and the National Book Award-winning Mars Ravelo's Darna.



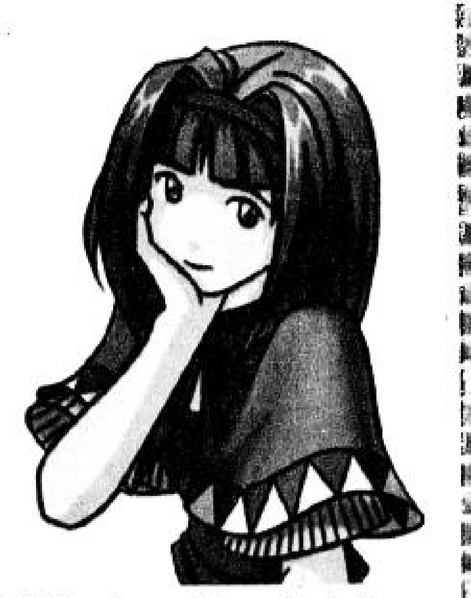
TWILIGHT from Twilight's Calling, written by Nikki Go-Alfar and drawn by Ellaine Guerrero. Spunky Twilight is the lead singer of a band she's formed with her friends. She's also got a huge crush on the band's guitarist, Sean.


MANGO COMICS
manga
Jam
meet
ciel, kali, mish & twilight!
four fresh stories, four new beginnings.
articles • interviews • reviews • anime

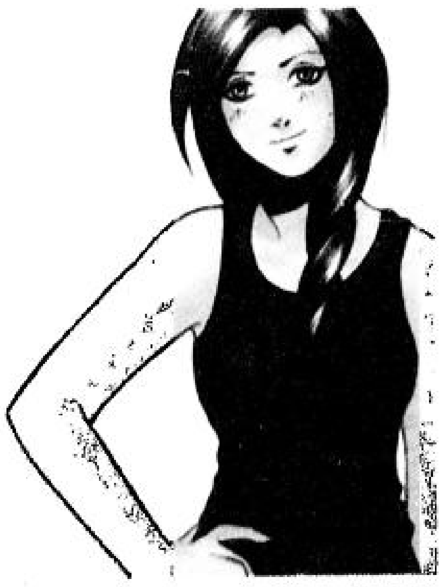
MANGO Jam is the country's first all-female comic magazine, created entirely by girls for girls.



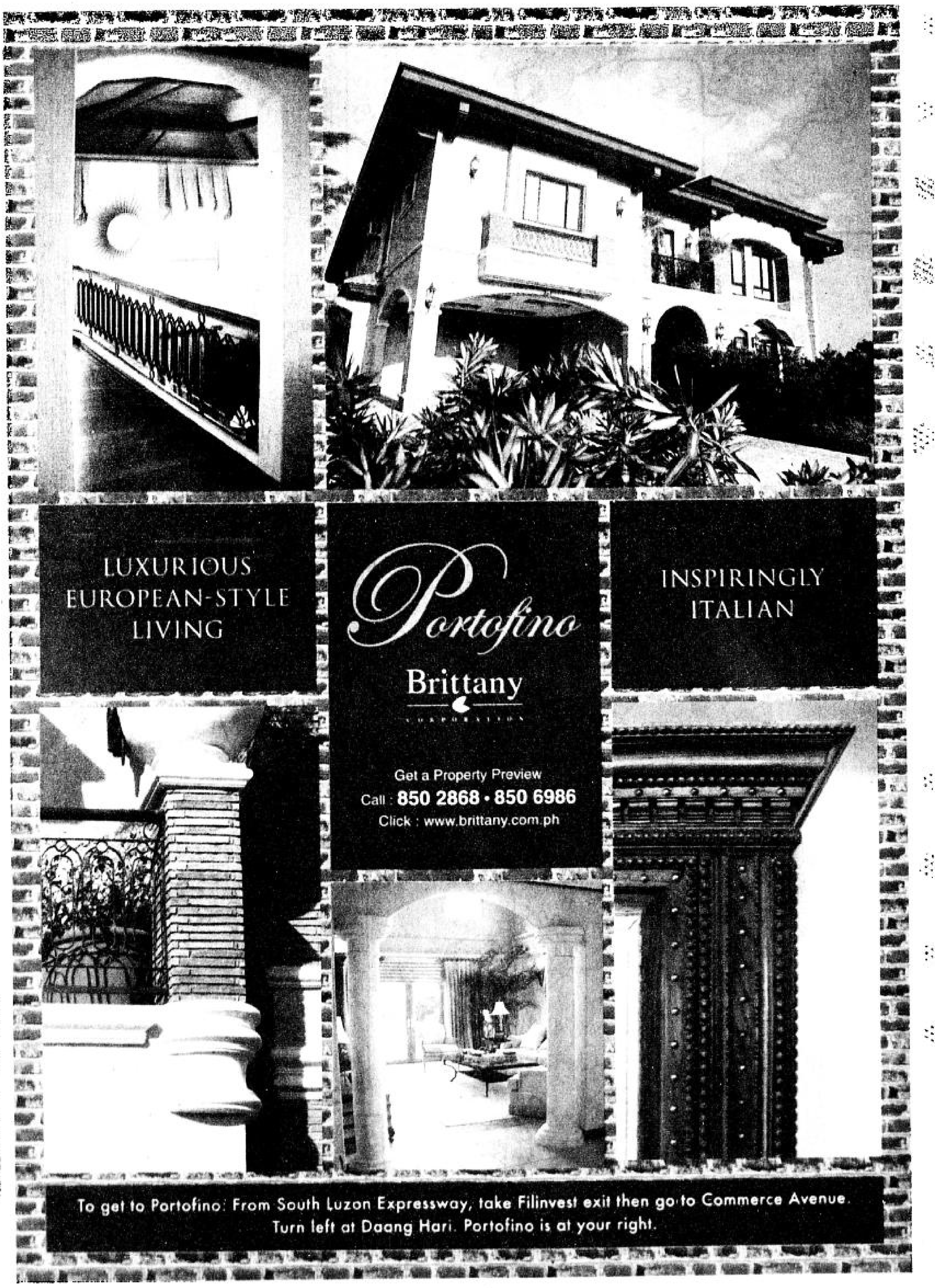
MISH from Mish 'Chief, written by Kristine Fonacier and drawn by Glenda Abad. Inquisitive Mish is the editor in chief of her grade school paper. She often gets into all sorts of misadventures with her best friends Belle and Sebastian.



CIEL from Leaves of Glaz, written by Cyan Abad-Jugo and drawn by Maisa Deluria. Soft-spoken Ciel is a native of the Kingdom of Glaz. The daughter of a former knight, Ciel has just found out that she has the magical ability to fly.



KALI from Kali, written by Karen Kunawicz and drawn by Mia Reyes. Athletic Kali is studying the martial art of arnis. She lives in a huge ancestral home with her ghost grandmother, Lola Fely.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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

JANUARY 30, 2005

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

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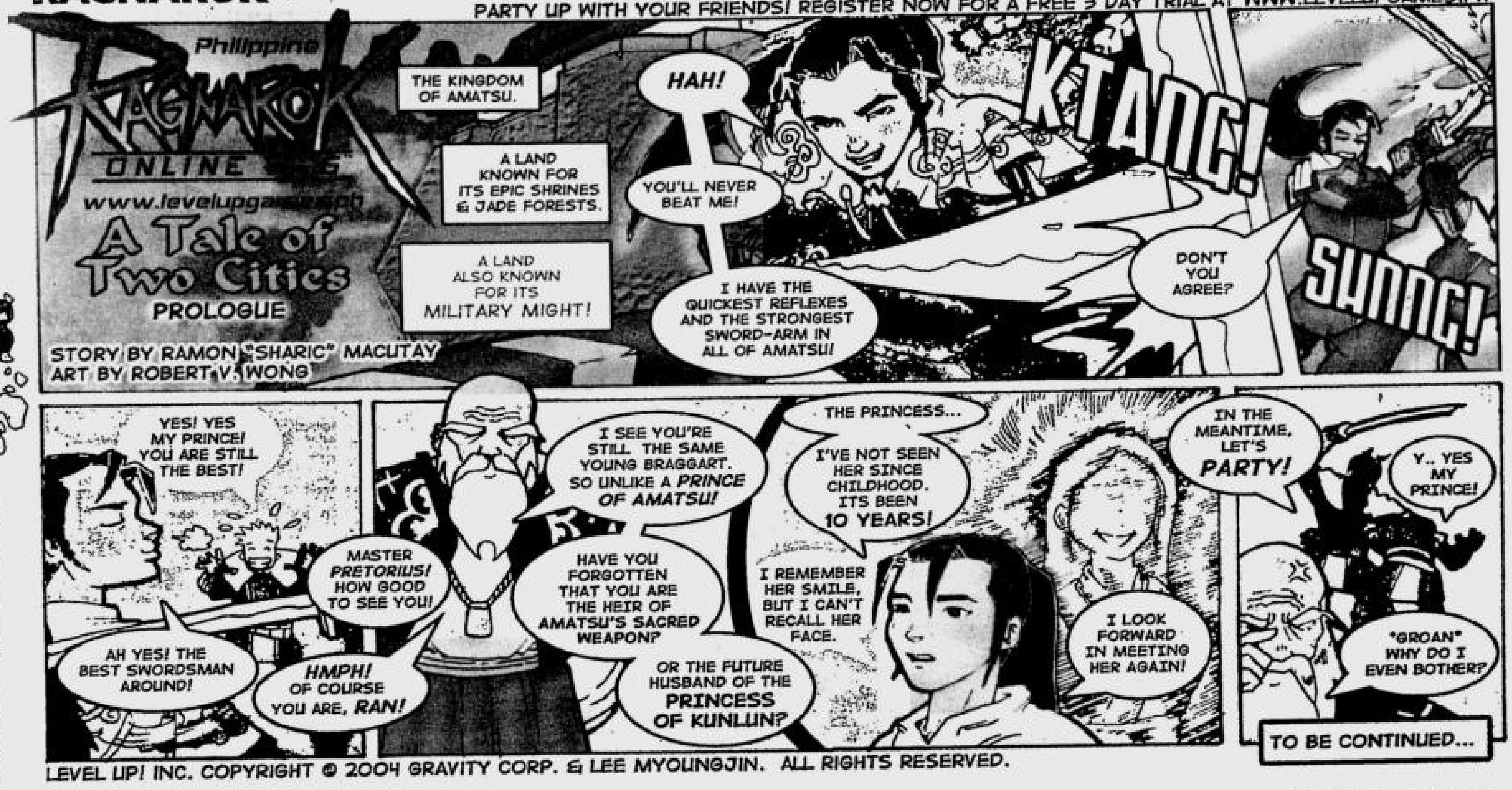
Philippine Ragnarok Online
www.levelupgames.ph
A Tale of Two Cities
PROLOGUE
STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART BY ROBERT V. WONG
THE KINGDOM OF AMATSU.
A LAND KNOWN FOR ITS EPIC SHRINES & JADE FORESTS.
A LAND ALSO KNOWN FOR ITS MILITARY MIGHT!
HAH!
YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME!
I HAVE THE QUICKEST REFLEXES AND THE STRONGEST SWORD-ARM IN ALL OF AMATSU!
KTANG!
DON'T YOU AGREE?
SHNNG!
YES! YES MY PRINCE! YOU ARE STILL THE BEST!
AH YES! THE BEST SWORDSMAN AROUND!
MASTER PRETORIUS! HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HMPH! OF COURSE YOU ARE, RAN!
I SEE YOU'RE STILL THE SAME YOUNG BRAGGART. SO UNLIKE A PRINCE OF AMATSU!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU ARE THE HEIR OF AMATSU'S SACRED WEAPON?
OR THE FUTURE HUSBAND OF THE PRINCESS OF KUNLUN?
THE PRINCESS...
I'VE NOT SEEN HER SINCE CHILDHOOD. ITS BEEN 10 YEARS!
I REMEMBER HER SMILE, BUT I CAN'T RECALL HER FACE.
I LOOK FORWARD IN MEETING HER AGAIN!
IN THE MEANTIME, LET'S PARTY!
Y.. YES MY PRINCE!
"GROAN" WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?
TO BE CONTINUED...

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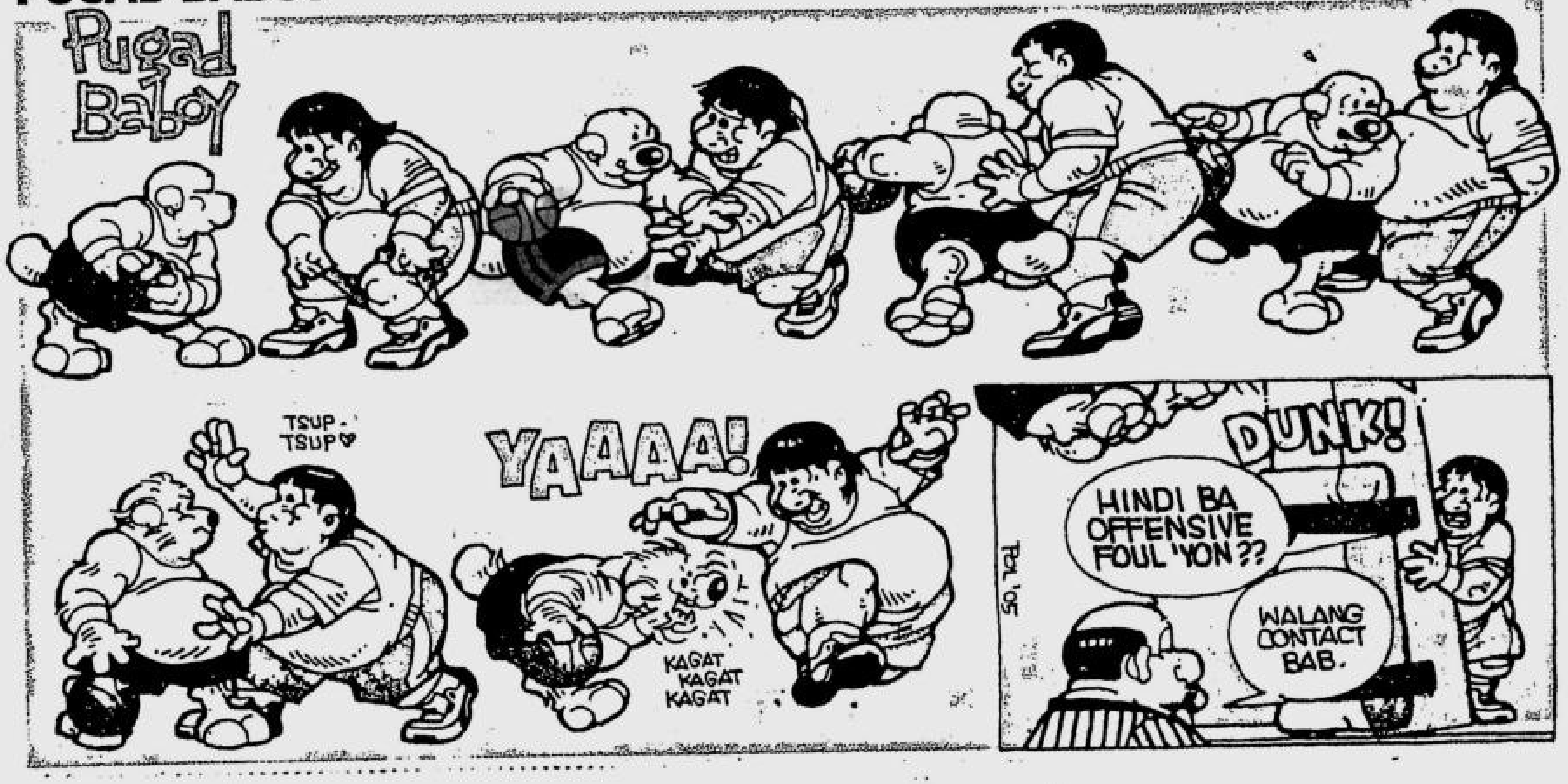
PUGAD BABOY

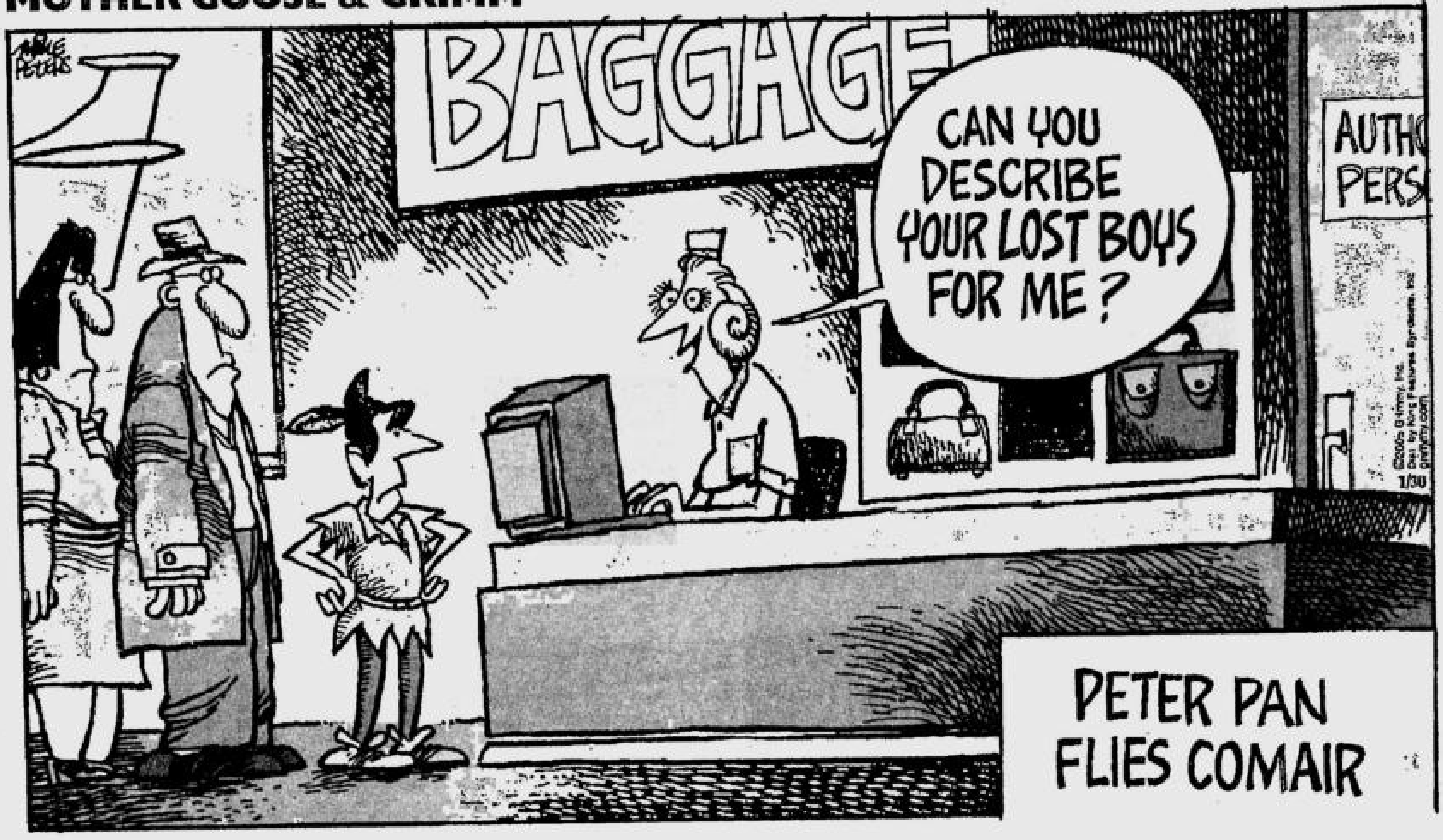
BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
TSUP-TSUP
YAAAA!
KAGAT KAGAT KAGAT
POL '05
DUNK!
HINDI BA OFFENSIVE FOUL 'YON??
WALANG CONTACT BAB.

FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

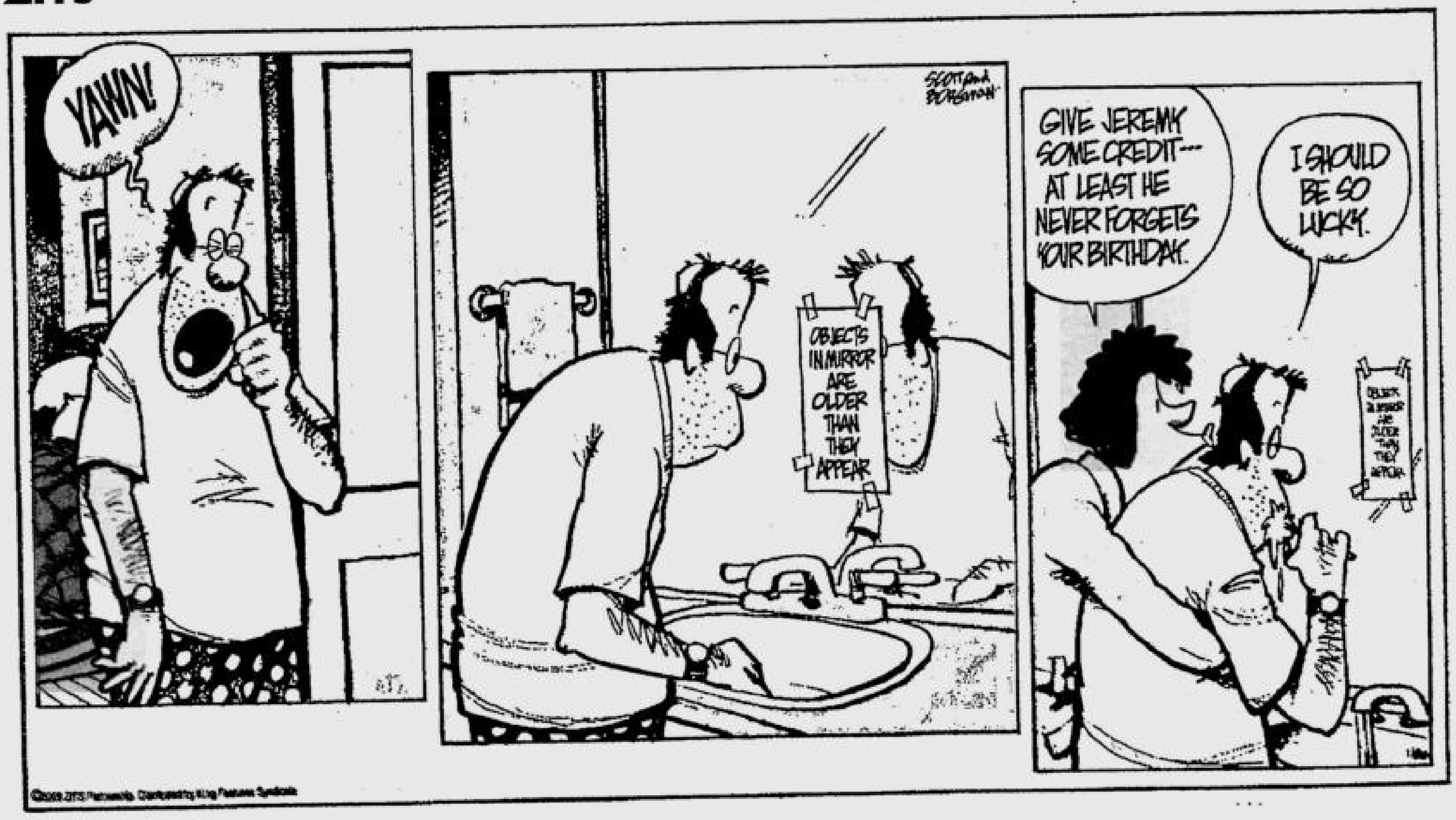
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MIKE PETERS
BAGGAGE
CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR LOST BOYS FOR ME?
AUTHO
PERS
©2005 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com
1/30
PETER PAN FLIES COMAIR

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


YAWN!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE OLDER THAN THEY APPEAR
GIVE JEREMY SOME CREDIT--- AT LEAST HE NEVER FORGETS YOUR BIRTHDAY.
I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY.
©2005 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*

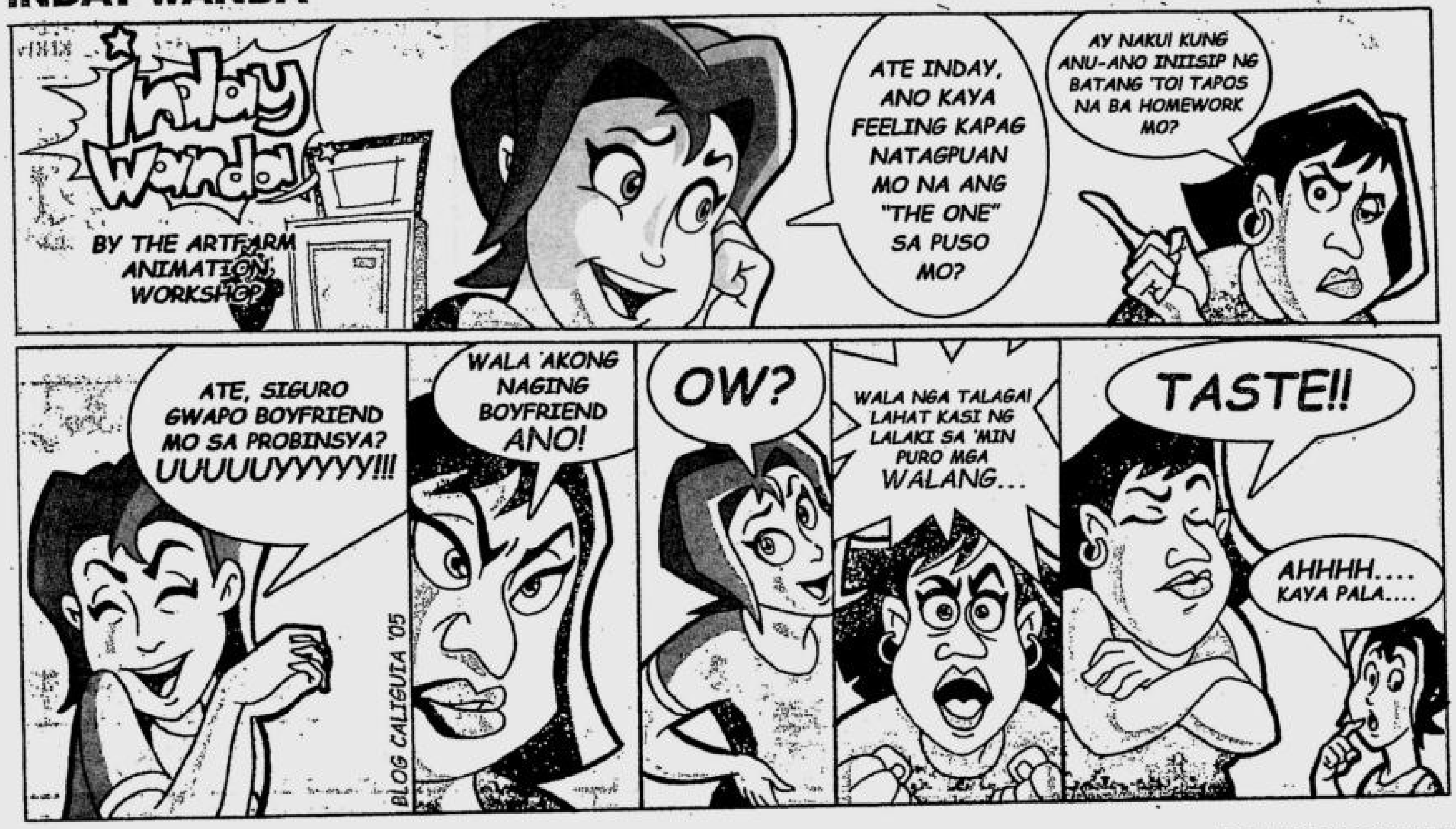
Congratulations to this week's winners: 1) Christopher Borcelas, Curuan, Zambo City 2) Angelito Geloca, Tagbilaran City 3) Virginia Lim, Q.C.

*SEE PROMO PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

Grand draw next week! Keep your votes coming in and get a chance to win a Personal Computer, Cellular Phone and more gift items! To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

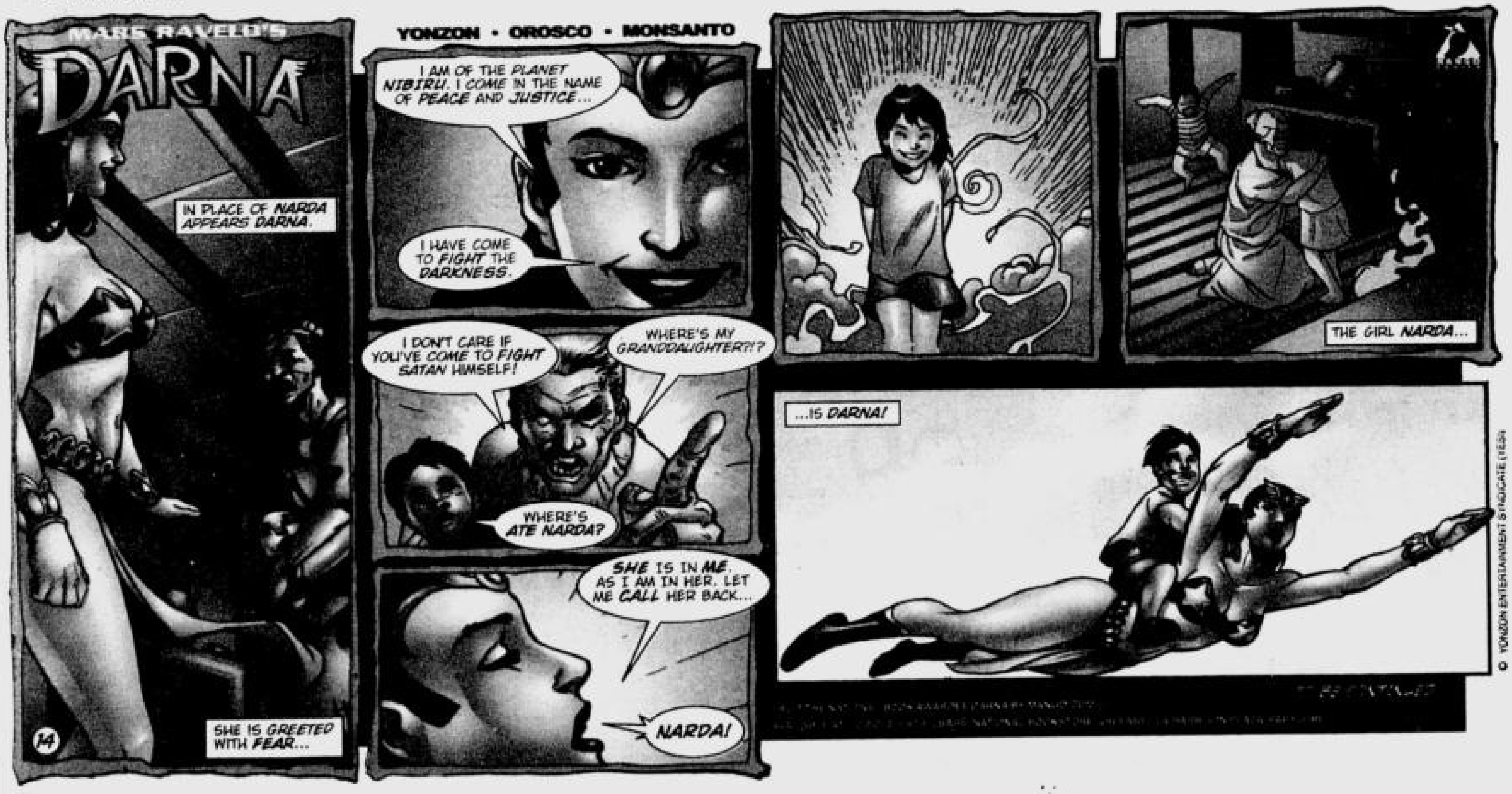
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
ATE INDAY, ANO KAYA FEELING KAPAG NATAGPUAN MO NA ANG "THE ONE" SA PUSO MO?
AY NAKU! KUNG ANU-ANO INIISIP NG BATANG 'TO! TAPOS NA BA HOMEWORK MO?
ATE, SIGURO GWAPO BOYFRIEND MO SA PROBINSYA? UUUUUYYYYY!!!
BLOG CALIGUIA '05
WALA 'AKONG NAGING BOYFRIEND ANO!
OW?
WALA NGA TALAGA! LAHAT KASI NG LALAKI SA 'MIN PURO MGA WALANG...
TASTE!!
AHHHH.... KAYA PALA....

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
YONZON · OROSCO · MONSANTO
IN PLACE OF NARDA APPEARS DARNA.
SHE IS GREETED WITH FEAR...
14
I AM OF THE PLANET NIBIRU. I COME IN THE NAME OF PEACE AND JUSTICE...
I HAVE COME TO FIGHT THE DARKNESS.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE COME TO FIGHT SATAN HIMSELF!
WHERE'S MY GRANDDAUGHTER?!?
WHERE'S ATE NARDA?
SHE IS IN ME. AS I AM IN HER. LET ME CALL HER BACK...
NARDA!
THE GIRL NARDA...
...IS DARNA!

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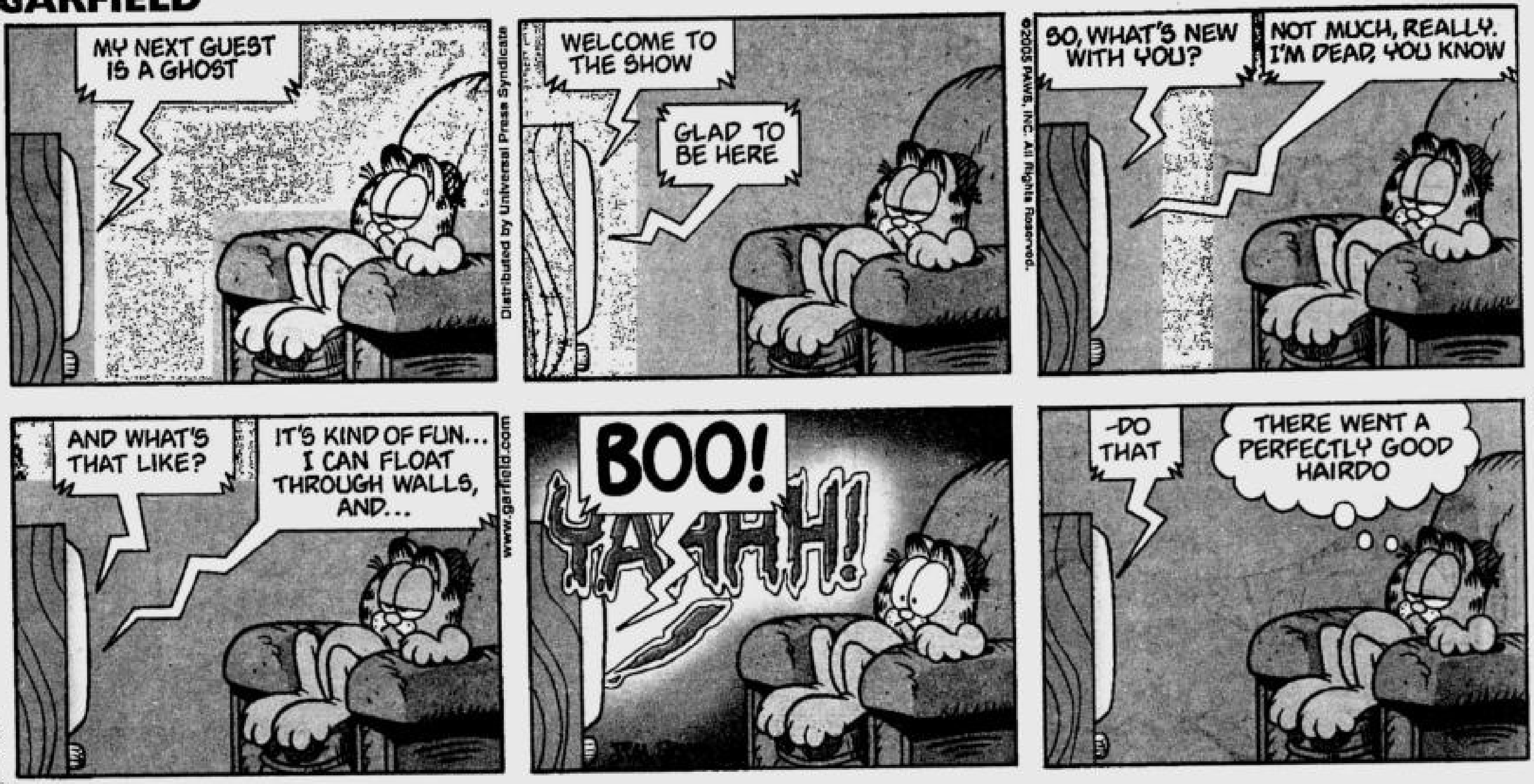
A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


MY NEXT GUEST IS A GHOST
WELCOME TO THE SHOW
GLAD TO BE HERE
SO, WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?
NOT MUCH, REALLY. I'M DEAD, YOU KNOW
AND WHAT'S THAT LIKE?
IT'S KIND OF FUN... I CAN FLOAT THROUGH WALLS, AND...
BOO!
YA4HH!
-DO THAT
THERE WENT A PERFECTLY GOOD HAIRDO

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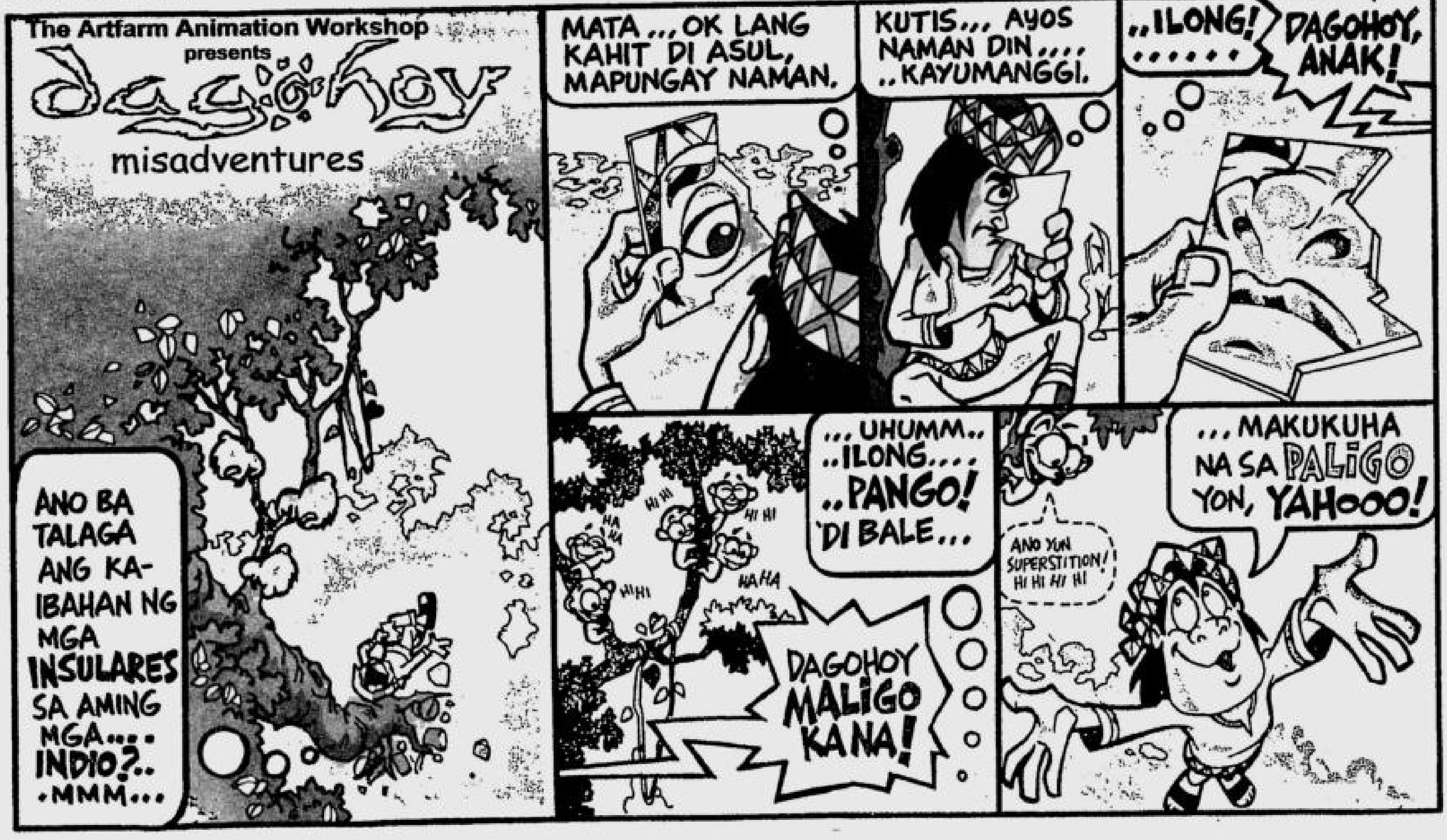
DAGOHOY

BY NELSON CALIGUIA


The Artfarm Animation Workshop presents
dagohoy
misadventures
ANO BA TALAGA ANG KA-IBAHAN NG MGA INSULARES SA AMING MGA.... INDIO?.. .MMM...
MATA ..., OK LANG KAHIT DI ASUL, MAPUNGAY NAMAN.
KUTIS..., AYOS NAMAN DIN.... ..KAYUMANGGI.
..ILONG! ......
DAGOHOY, ANAK!
HA HA
HI HI
HI HI
HI HI
HA HA
...UHUMM.. ..ILONG.... ..PANGO! 'DI BALE...
DAGOHOY MALIGO KA NA!
ANO YUN SUPERSTITION! HI HI HI HI
...MAKUKUHA NA SA PALIGO YON, YAHOOO!

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

DENDROBIUM with white flowers is a favorite of florists.

DANCING Lady is a popular Oncidium orchid.

HORN-TYPE Dendrobium is a sturdy hybrid.

Living on in an orchid park

Manila's biggest water reservoir is now adorned with beautiful flowers from the collection of Violy Drilon, the Senate president's late wife

By Tita V. Giron
Photos by Raffy Lerma

ONCE these orchids bloom, this will be the most beautiful part of the park."

This was the opening remark of Sen. Franklin Drilon at the groundbreaking rites of The Orchidarium at La Mesa Dam EcoPark in Novaliches. It's one of the latest projects of Bantay Kalikasan of ABS-CBN Foundation, this time in partnership with the Philippine Orchid Society.

Sen. Drilon may not know the difference between an orchid and a fern, but there was a reason he was so at home among the 4,000 or-so pieces of newly planted orchids at the park. He donated the orchids, the entire collection of his late wife Violy, a lawyer who loved orchids to a fault.

She was one of the most committed members of the Philippine Orchid Society (POS), and her orchid garden at the Drilon residence in Greenhills was known to other collectors as her pride and sanctuary. We know that fact only too well, having written about Violy's obsession with orchids for the newspapers and the gardeners' magazines.

Being there at the formal launch of the orchid park last Sunday was for us, a virtual trip down memory lane. Those familiar-looking orchids reminded us of the wonderful times we spent many years ago, chatting about orchids under the gazebo of Violy's garden.

At the center of that gazebo, we remember vividly, was a pot full of Dendrobium hybrids named after her by a Thai breeder. The orchids had beautiful light green flowers on arching stems. All around us were hundreds of other blooming Dendrobium hybrids which she brought home from her travels and purchased from local garden centers.

She was, however, proudest of the huge clump of waling-waling species mounted on a weathered trunk. By any standard, it was a prize-winning specimen of a prolific mother plant surrounded by several offsprings that bloomed at the same time during the flowering season.

Pleasant surprise

After almost 10 years, it was thus a pleasant surprise to see again the same orchids and their offshoots from the late collector's orchids. There were blooming Dendrobiums covering the trunks of live trees, as well as driftwoods.

Although the other plants, especially the native species, are still adjusting and recovering from the shock of being transplanted to their new environment, they're none the worse for wear. New roots are starting to spread out from the base of Dendrobium secundums, *sanggumays*, rice orchids and grammatophyllum.

"A haven for orchids is what we envision this park to be," said Gina Lopez, the foundation's managing director. She added that the park is now open for artists, photographers and garden hobbyists. "With the blooming orchids among trees and plants, it will be a perfect site for weddings, dinners and other functions."

VIOLY Drilon's colorful Dendrobiums bloom in their new home at La Mesa orchidarium.

SENATOR Franklin Drilon handed over orchids from the collection of his late wife Violy to ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez during formal rites at The Orchidarium

In her welcome address, Lopez acknowledged the orchid contribution and work of the POS. "They gathered Violy's orchids and also donated plants from their personal collection," she announced.

At the launch were POS president Rex Puentespina and representatives Andres Golamco Jr., J.M. Lacandula, Serapion Metilla and others.

The POS officers started transplanting the Drilon collection about four months ago. They also gathered contributions from other hobbyists to fill up the 6,500-sq-m orchidarium.

"Give the orchids another six months, and they will transform this park into a flower haven," Puentespina said.

La Mesa Dam is Metro Manila's biggest water reservoir and supplies the water needs of residents in the National Capital Region. Bantay Kalikasan is currently undertaking a rehabilitation, development and protection project on the 2,700-hectare watershed.

If you have orchids to contribute, call Bantay Kalikasan at 4304051 or 4309391.

A WALKWAY as flanked on both sides by orchids from collections of Violy Drilon and POS members.

DENDROBIUM for cutflower gives color to the base of a tall tree.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005
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Christian takes over Rico's place

By Marinel R. Cruz

HOMEBODY. "I miss just staying home," says Christian Bautista.

CHRISTIAN Bautista makes sure that, despite his hectic show biz schedule, he spends quality time with his family.

The 23-year-old singer reserves one day to either share dinner with his family in Cavite, or bond with his brothers in several rounds of paintball, a war simulation game.

"I miss just staying at home," said Christian, the newest endorser of Greenwich, the first one since young actor Rico Yan left the slot open following his sudden death in April 2002.

"While he attends Bible studies every Wednesday with Piolo [Pascual], Claudine [Barretto] and other ABS-CBN artists, Sunday is usually Christian's rest day, said Carlo Orosa, Christian's manager. "His is a closely knit family. They really value their time together."

Christian arrived at Greenwich Market! Market! branch at the Global City in Taguig a few hours late. He said he left his house in Cavite as early as 6 a.m. and gone to the US Embassy to secure a visa for a US show with other singing competition winners. They flew to the US the following day.

From the embassy, he proceeded to the launch of Greenwich's new pizza flavor, Grilled Beef Primo.

Araneta concert

Christian is one of the hosts of the new talent show "Search for a Star in a Million" on ABS-CBN. The show, which premiered Jan. 29, is co-hosted by Erik Santos, Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista, all singing champions like him.

He will perform with the soul diva Kuh Ledesma at the Captain's Bar in a concert series dubbed "The Love Songs of Streisand, Legrande and Groban" from Feb. 11 to 14.

On March 4, Christian will have his first major concert and at no less than the Araneta Coliseum. The concert is titled "Christian Bautista: You and Me" and also has Rachelle Ann Go.

A repackaged version of Christian's "Kailan Pa Ba Ikaw?" album from Warner Music will be released in February. It contains all his music videos and three new tunes, according to Carlo.

Christian is also working on his second album and hopes to finish it before the year ends.

A soap on ABS-CBN and a Star Cinema movie are also in the works for Christian, his manager said.

"I think Christian is clueless about his popularity," said Carlo. "Everything happened to him so fast and all in one year."

"But nothing changed much about my personality," Christian protested. "I'm still basically who I am before these things started happening to me.

"One time," he related, "I made my own pizza at home," he related. "It wasn't good. I used pork and beans. I was just home and had nothing better to do.

"I enjoyed taping for the Greenwich commercial. I didn't have to adjust because the people I worked with were all my friends from Trumpets," Christian added, referring to the theater company where he started.

Through needle's eye

"I'm overwhelmed by the fact that Greenwich has not had an official endorser since [actor] Rico Yan [died in 2002]. I'm actually flattered. Rico was well-loved and respected."

To clinch the yearlong endorsement contract with Greenwich, Carlo said, Christian "had to pass through the eye of the needle."

The names of other popular celebrities like John Lloyd Cruz, Mark Herras, Erik Santos, Sarah Geronimo and Mark Bautista also came up.

"But we realized that the way people described Christian was also the way we described Greenwich—*kabarkada*," said Greenwich marketing director Cherry Caluya. "We see Christian as somebody who pursues his craft and passion. He is a young achiever who believes in what he does and enjoys doing it."

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

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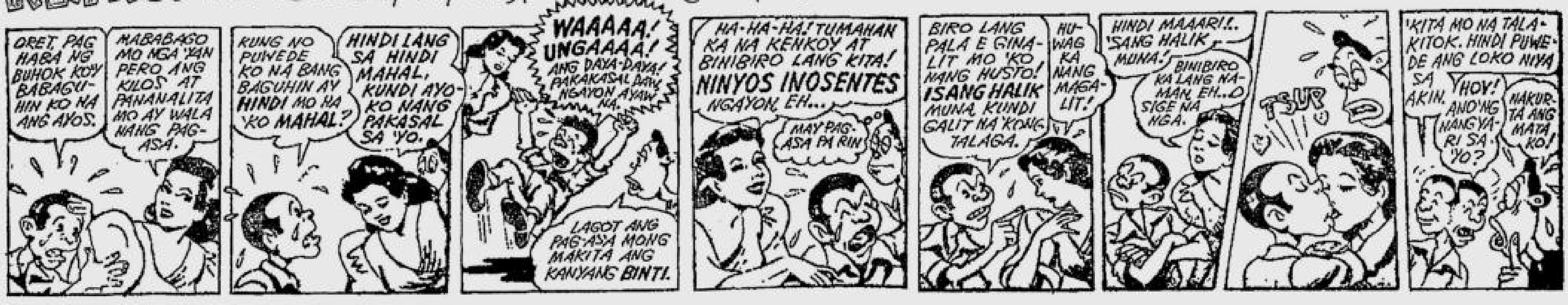
ORET, PAG HABA NG BUHOK KO'Y BABAGUHIN KO NA ANG AYOS.
MABABAGO MO NGA 'YAN PERO ANG KILOS AT PANANALITA MO AY WALA NANG PAG-ASA.
KUNG NO PUWEDE KO NA BANG BAGUHIN AY HINDI MO NA 'KO MAHAL?
HINDI LANG SA HINDI MAHAL, KUNDI AYOKO NANG PAKASAL SA 'YO.
WAAAAA! UNGAAAA! ANG DAYA-DAYA! PAKAKASAL DAW NGAYON AYAW NA.
LAGOT ANG PAG-ASA MONG MAKITA ANG KANYANG BINTI.
HA-HA-HA! TUMAHAN KA NA KENKOY AT BINIBIRO LANG KITA! NINYOS INOSENTES NGAYON, EH...
MAY PAG-ASA PA RIN
BIRO LANG PALA E GINALIT MO 'KO NANG HUSTO! ISANG HALIK MUNA, KUNDI GALIT NA 'KONG TALAGA.
HUWAG KA NANG MAGALIT!
HINDI MAAARI!. 'SANG HALIK MUNA!
BINIBIRO KA LANG NAMAN, EH..D SIGE NA NGA.
TSUP
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2-day bash for 'Spongebob Movie'

SHOW TIME

SINGAPORE—Nickelodeon goes out in a big way for the Asian premiere of "The Spongebob Squarepants Movie," Jan. 29-30, at Sentosa Island's Tanjong Beach in Singapore.

The two-month campaign features an Asia-wide contest, sponsored by Singapore Airlines, that will fly a family of four each from Japan, India, Korea, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia to Singapore, to attend the premiere party of "The Spongebob Squarepants Movie."

The two-day Asian premiere of "The Spongebob Squarepants Movie" is highlighted by a visit from Spongebob Squarepants creator Stephen Hillenburg, with special Spongebob merchandise to be included in the event's silent auction to raise funds for Nickelodeon's ongoing tsunami relief efforts. Auction proceeds will be donated to Unicef.

Other premiere highlights include a sand sculpting competition with prizes of over SGD$15,000 in cash and kind including a family trip for four to Nickelodeon's exclusive family hotel, the Nickelodeon Family Suites in Orlando, Florida.

There are also Bikini Bottom-themed games, a Spongebob Squarepants toon-a-thon, more prize giveaways and live appearances by Spongebob Squarepants, Patrick and Squidward.

A two-day roadshow took place to give away premiere tickets to the first 200 people who showed up wearing Spongebob Squarepants teeth in their mouths; the teeth were printed from Nick Asia's website.

Produced and directed by Hillenburg, the movie tells of how the simple, quiet life of the underwater paradise, Bikini Bottom, gets a little wild when Spongebob Squarepants and his dimwitted best friend, Patrick, set out on an epic quest to reclaim King Neptune's stolen crown and save Mr. Krabs' life.

The film features famous voice talents, including Alec Baldwin, Scarlet Johansson, Jeffrey Tambor, with a special appearance by David Hasselhoff as himself.

The Asian premiere is supported by The Singapore Tourism Board, and sponsored by Singapore Airlines, Sentosa, United Overseas Bank, SingTel, Motorola, United International Pictures and Orchard Parade Hotel.

THE "STARTIST" 12

SHOW TIME

'Startist' pre-finals

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines presented its 12 "Startist" candidates in a pre-finals selection to determine the top 4 last Friday, Jan. 28, on UNTV (UHF 37, SkyCable 95 or HomeCable 59).

The first reality TV training for future singing stars, "Startist" is hosted by professional model Gwyneth Albarracin, who is also its producer.

The 12 candidates were Reyma Hilaga, Micah Laxamana, Hideyuki Ito, Nory de Roxas, Danna Belle Chua, Hadj Nava, Tin-tin Aguilar, Jam Tatco, Vaughn Almaden, Rose Santiago, Jason Sia and Alodie Neria.

"Startist" revolves around the 12 candidates trained personally on TV by Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of Center for Pop Music Philippines. Tips on stardom are given by former recording executive Tato Malay, also a masscom professor and author.

The show is directed by Rene Molina. Assistant executive producer is coach Joey Llamado. The top 4 "Startists" will continue their training on television, and the most outstanding star material will be managed by the Center for Pop Music Philippines and will get a recording contract.

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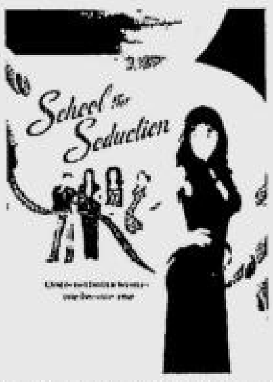

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9 KUNG FU HUSTLE
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11 SALSA (AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE)
12 MAD HOUSE

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2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 ELEKTRA
4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 ELEKTRA
6 SALSA (AN SM CINEMA EXCLUSIVE)
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8 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 WHITE NOISE

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2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 ELEKTRA
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 MAD HOUSE
6 UNO
7 HAYOP SA PORMA, HAYOP SA GANDA
8 BLADE TRINITY
9 OCEAN'S TWELVE
10 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION

sm city north edsa
1 BLADE TRINITY
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 HAYOP SA PORMA, HAYOP SA GANDA
4 OCEAN'S TWELVE
5 WHITE NOISE
6 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
7 MEET THE FOCKERS
8 ELEKTRA

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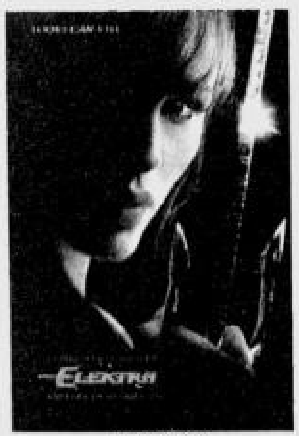

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"THE WEDDING." They've gone and done it

'American Pie: The Wedding' premieres tonight in Asia

THE RAUCOUS and lovable characters from the successful "American Pie" and "American Pie 2" are planning on doing it. Really soon. In front of everyone they know. In a big way.

Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alyson Hannigan) are getting married.

With East Great Falls High, foreign exchange students, band camp, crazy glue and summer college vacations now a thing of the past, Jim and Michelle's friends and family are ready to help usher the couple down the aisle and over the threshold into adulthood.

Michelle wants the wedding to be perfect. Not exactly an easy task, even with everyone on their best behavior and getting along. Which probably isn't going to happen.

Welcome to the thrilling climax of the American Pie saga. Catch "American Pie: The Wedding" when it premieres for the first time on Asian television, exclusively on Cinemax, tonight at 9 p.m. in the Philippines.

Hayek, Robbins Oscar presenters

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood stars Salma Hayek and former Academy Award winner Tim Robbins will join the line-up of presenters at the 77th Oscar ceremony on Feb. 27 in Hollywood, organizers said last week.

Hayek, the star of films including "After the Sunset," "Once upon a Time in Mexico," "Frida" and "Dogma," will next be seen on the screen in "Ask the Dust" and "Bandidas."

Robbins, 46, won the best supporting actor Oscar last year for his role in Clint Eastwood's drama "Mystic River." In 1995, he received an Oscar nomination for directing the capital punishment drama "Dead Man Walking." He is filming "War of the Worlds" and will be seen next in "The Secret Life of Words."

Hayek and Robbins join last year's best actress Oscar winner, South African star Charlize Theron, and fellow Academy Award winner Renee Zellweger in the presenters' line-up.

Also signed on to hand out some of cinema's highest honors is "Lord of the Rings" star Orlando Bloom.

Nominations for this year's Academy Awards were announced on Tuesday, with Martin Scorsese's $110-million Howard Hughes biopic, "The Aviator," leading the pack with 11 nominations including best picture, best director and best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio. *AFP*

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ITS ALL ABOUT LOVE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	WHITE NOISE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	ELEKTRA PG13 11:40,1:50,4:00,6:10,8:20,10:30

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11:50, 2:20, 4:50
7:20, 10:20
PG-13

3 ELEKTRA
11:45, 2:25, 5:05
7:45, 10:25
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1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
MEET THE FOCKERS
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
OCEAN'S TWELVE
1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
WHITE NOISE
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

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1 ELEKTRA
10:30 / 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
3 BLADE: TRINITY
11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
4 SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15
5 HAYOP SA GANDA
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1 ELEKTRA • THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 ELEKTRA 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
6 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
7 WHITE NOISE 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
8 KUNG FU HUSTLE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 BLADE TRINITY 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
10 MADHOUSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 ELEKTRA 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
2 WHITE NOISE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50
3 MEET THE FOCKERS 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 RESERVE
5 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
6 BLADE TRINITY 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 • 682-8280
1 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
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7 ELEKTRA 12:10 2:45 5:20 7:55 10:30
8 BLADE TRINITY 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

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1 ELEKTRA 3:20 5:55 8:30
2 OCEAN'S TWELVE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25
3 MADHOUSE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 BLADE TRINITY 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50
5 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
6 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
7 TWO BROTHERS 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00
8 ELEKTRA 10:10 12:15 2:50

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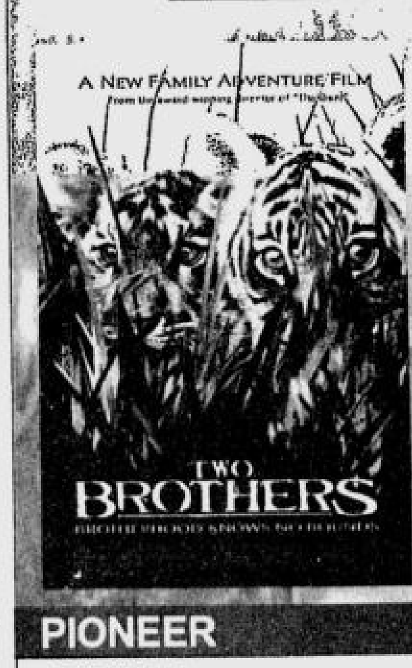

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1 RAISE YOUR VOICE 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
3 WHITE NOISE 11:30 1:45 4:00 6:15 8:30
4 SAPLOT 11:20 1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30

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B-horror movie with high-quality cast

REVIEW

NEW YORK—What is Robert de Niro thinking?

The question is being posed not with condescension or derision—though that's probably how it sounds—but with curiosity and concern.

When he makes a movie like "Hide and Seek"—essentially a B-horror flick with the benefit of a high-quality cast—is he doing it for a change of pace? He's turned to comedy in recent years from the films ("Taxi Driver," "Raging Bull") that defined his esteemed career early on. Maybe he felt the need to mix things up again after playing the pent-up gangster shtick of the "Analyze This" movies and the pent-up retired CIA agent shtick of the "Meet the Parents" movies.

He made a similar choice with last spring's sci-fi bomb "Godsend," in which he played a doctor who helped a couple clone their child. Maybe he sees something in these projects that the rest of us don't.

Creepy neighbors

Certainly the first two-thirds of this generically titled thriller are engrossing enough, chock full of good, old-fashioned scary movie images and ideas. Director John Polson, who also directed the high-school stalker movie "Swimfan," concocts a sort of horror flick greatest hits in working with Ari Schlossberg's script.

De Niro plays New York City psychologist David Callaway, who takes his daughter, Emily (Dakota Fanning), to a dinky town upstate after the suicide of his wife (Amy Irving).

David and Emily move into a rambling Victorian home with creaky doors and hardwood floors, surrounded by dark woods and blanketed in perpetual cloud cover. Creepy neighbors stop by with homemade preserves or to drop off extra keys in the middle of the night, and the sheriff (Dylan Baker) personally patrols every home but still finds time to write parking tickets.

Hoping to start over, David becomes friendly with cute divorcee Elizabeth (Elisabeth Shue) and hopes that Emily will come out of her frequently stoic state to make new friends, too.

What he doesn't realize is that Emily does have a buddy: His name is Charlie. Charlie is "fun like mommy." Charlie does not want daddy to be happy. David assumes this is an imaginary pal, the manifestation of her grief. His protege, Katherine (Famke Janssen), who's Emily's psychologist back in the city, agrees.

Embarrassing to watch

Then the bodies start piling up. Emily, in her small, eerie voice, blames them on Charlie. Eventually she insists that Charlie made her help him. (And her evil drawings and the menacing messages written in crayon in her scrawl sure seem to implicate her.)

But Emily is a tiny person—clearly she couldn't have done all this on her own. She doesn't have the telepathic homicidal ability of Damien, the devil child from "The Omen," nor does she have the superhuman strength that satanic possession gave Regan in "The Exorcist." And the film's abundant red herrings suggest Charlie could be a real dude.

Here's where the weakness of Schlossberg's script really comes to a head. Not to give anything away, but De Niro is forced to say and do things that an actor of his stature should not have to say and do. As an audience member, it's uncomfortably embarrassing to watch. The last third of the movie aims for scary; instead, it's unintentionally funny.

But Fanning, who previously co-starred in "I Am Sam" and "Man on Fire," continues to prove herself as an actress with impressive poise and talent beyond her mere 10 years. Dying her blond hair brown makes her big, blue eyes look even bigger, which adds a layer of spookiness to the film. (It also causes her to resemble Winona Ryder in "Beetlejuice.")

"Hide and Seek" is a movie that presumably she'll want to hide on her filmography as she crafts her own esteemed career.

"Hide and Seek," a Twentieth Century Fox release, runs 105 minutes. One and a half stars out of four. *AP*

SO YOUNG, SO GOOD. Dakota Fanning is impressive but she'll want to hide this movie on her filmography.

The boxing coach who taught Hilary Swank to draw blood

NEW YORK—"My best champion is Hilary Swank," glows Panamanian boxing coach Hector Roca with pride, setting the Oscar-nominated actress above 13 fighters he's helped turn into world champions.

In "Million Dollar Baby," Swank plays Maggie Fitzgerald, a boxer trained by Clint Eastwood, who also directs the film.

The film has been nominated for seven Academy Awards, and Roca plans to travel to Los Angeles to see if his star pupil wins the coveted best actress Oscar after already winning a Golden Globe for her performance in the film.

The story of Roca's involvement with the film began when Bruce Silverglade, proprietor of Gleason's gym in the New York borough of Brooklyn, received a call to train the actress, already an Oscar winner for her performance in "Boys Don't Cry."

Silverglade immediately thought of Roca.

"I chose him for Hilary," said Silverglade. "I got a call from her people and they arranged for her to come over and when she was in she sized up the gym and she sized me up and at the same time I sized her up and chose Hector and it turned out to be a nice match.

"Hector is the biggest disciplinarian that I have . . . He'll tell you either 'you do it this way, or don't do it at all' or 'go to someone else.' And that type of strong personality is what was needed for Hilary because we only had three and a half months."

Gleason's is the same gym where Robert de Niro trained for his role as Jake LaMotta in "Raging Bull."

Roca, 65, from Panama's second-largest city, Colon, accepted the challenge, as he had done before with Jennifer Lopez, Wesley Snipes, Michelle Rodriguez and John Leguizamo. He trained with Swank two to two and a half hours a day and gave her protein and egg whites to eat to gain weight and develop her muscles.

Soon after beginning to practice in the ring, Swank delivered her first punch in the nose to a sparring partner.

She apologized "and I got very upset. I said to her 'next time look for another trainer. Anger is necessary in this sport.' If you get a punch in, you have to get another one in," Roca explained. *AFP*

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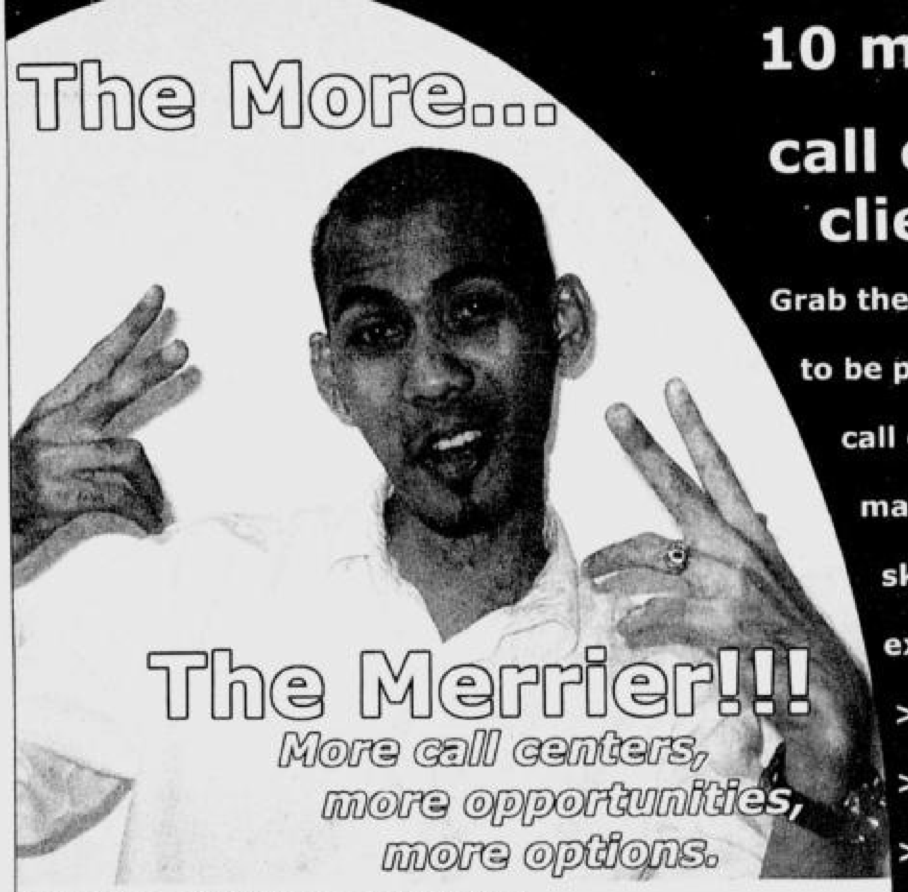
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UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Area Project Coordinators for the UNFPA Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the immediate supervision of the Programme Manager and in close working partnerships with the UNFPA Area Officers, three Area Project Coordinators (APCS) covering the provinces of Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Maguindanao, Lanao Sur, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato including the Davao-based NGOs, will be hired to serve as the frontline link of UNFPA with the implementing partners. They will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist the provinces and municipalities in the setting up of the project management units within the LGUs, ensuring that the necessary legal issuances have been passed, focal persons for the project have been properly designated at the provincial, municipal and NGO levels, and that office space, furniture and basic supplies have been provided.
2. Working closely with the designated focal persons, assist in the orientation of provincial and municipal officials, service providers and other stakeholders about the 6th CP and its major components and in the firming up of the Annual Work Plans which spell out the major deliverables and activities of the LGU during the year.
3. Provide technical assistance to the province and municipalities in the preparation of quarterly workplans and results-based reports and ensure the timely submission of these document to the Mindanao PMO.
4. Coordinate the conduct of inter- and intra- provincial and municipal activities such as the community assessments and baseline surveys, the training of service providers, IEC and advocacy campaigns, etc.
5. Together with the Mindanao Health Development Office (MHDO) and the regional offices of national implementing partners, monitor the progress of implementation of provinces and municipalities vis-à-vis outputs and targets on a regular basis and address operational problems as they arise
6. Facilitate the request of provinces, municipalities and NGOs for technical assistance from the region, national agencies and UNFPA.
7. Serve as resource person or trainor for capacity building activities.
8. Document program activities in area of responsibility and submit monthly reports to Programme Manager.
9. As part of the PMO, work harmoniously with the rest of the team, sharing knowledge and information openly and displaying cultural and gender sensitivity.
10. Performs other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative or the Programme Manager.

Qualifications:
Must be a college graduate with a bachelors degree in the social sciences preferably health-related
Must have at least 3 to 5 years experience working in reproductive health, population and gender projects preferably at the LGU/community level.
Must have excellent interpersonal, communication (oral and written), facilitating and negotiating skills.
Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and internet applications.
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Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

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UNFPA

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Population and Gender Adviser for the UNFPA Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the technical guidance of the UNFPA Programme Officers for PDS and Gender and the immediate administrative supervision of the Programme Manager, the PDS and Gender Adviser shall provide technical assistance to the UNFPA-assisted provinces, municipalities and NGOs in Mindanao in population and development and in gender and VAW. More specifically, he or she shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Provide technical guidance during the conduct of the baseline survey in Mindanao and assist in the analysis and interpretation of the PDS and gender results.
2. Organize the PDS/advocacy teams and VAW Task Forces and mobilize them in the conduct of training needs assessments of local officials, prospective advocates and VAW service providers in UNFPA-assisted provinces and municipalities in Mindanao.
3. Using the survey and assessment results, and in consultation with the LGUs and NGOs: a) identify the key PDS and gender needs of the provinces and municipalities; b) validate whether the PDS and gender activities in the AWPs and the underlying strategies respond to these needs; and c) make adjustments in the AWPs and prepare the comprehensive PDS and gender technical assistance plans
4. Implement the technical assistance plan. Assist the PDS/advocacy team and the VAW Task Force in the following:
    a. Preparation of the POPDEV training plan for LGUs, advocacy training plan for prospective advocates and VAW training plan for service providers and the conduct of training;
    b. Preparation of the advocacy (communication) plan and conduct of the advocacy campaigns.
    c. Compliance with LGU counterpart requirements such as resolution supporting RH, budget allocation for contraceptives and Philhealth premiums, personnel in health facilities, construction/upgrading of health facilities.
    d. Provision of technical updates on the latest developments in PDS and gender..
5. Coordinate the timing and implementation of national and NGO PDS and gender inputs to the provinces and municipalities and ensure that the provinces and municipalities are prepared to receive the assistance.
6. Conduct regular monitoring of the PDS and gender activities of the provinces and municipalities together with UNFPA Programme Officers, the regional offices of POPCOM and other national implementing partners and the Area Project Coordinators and assist in the technical review of the quarterly work and financial plans to track progress in the achievement of outputs and address problems and bottlenecks.
7. Assist the UNFPA Programme Officers for PDS and Gender and POPCOM in the review, development and improvement of training modules, protocols, frameworks and monitoring tools.
8. Serve as resource person or trainor during capacity building activities
9. Prepare and submit monthly performance reports to the Programme Manager on the technical assistance activities undertaken for the provinces and municipalities vis-à-vis the comprehensive technical assistance plan.
10. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative or the Programme Manager.

Qualifications:
Must have a Masters Degree in Public Administration or any of the social sciences. Must have at least five to seven years of solid technical experience in population, gender and development.
Must possess excellent conceptual and analytical skills, strategic thinking and results orientation
Must have very good interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills
Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint, and internet applications
Preferably a resident of Mindanao
Willing to travel to conflict-affected areas and be based in Davao.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
P.O. Box 7285 DAPO
1300 Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila
Or through emailat officemail@unfpa.org.ph

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 11 February 2005 (Only short-listed applicants will be notified).

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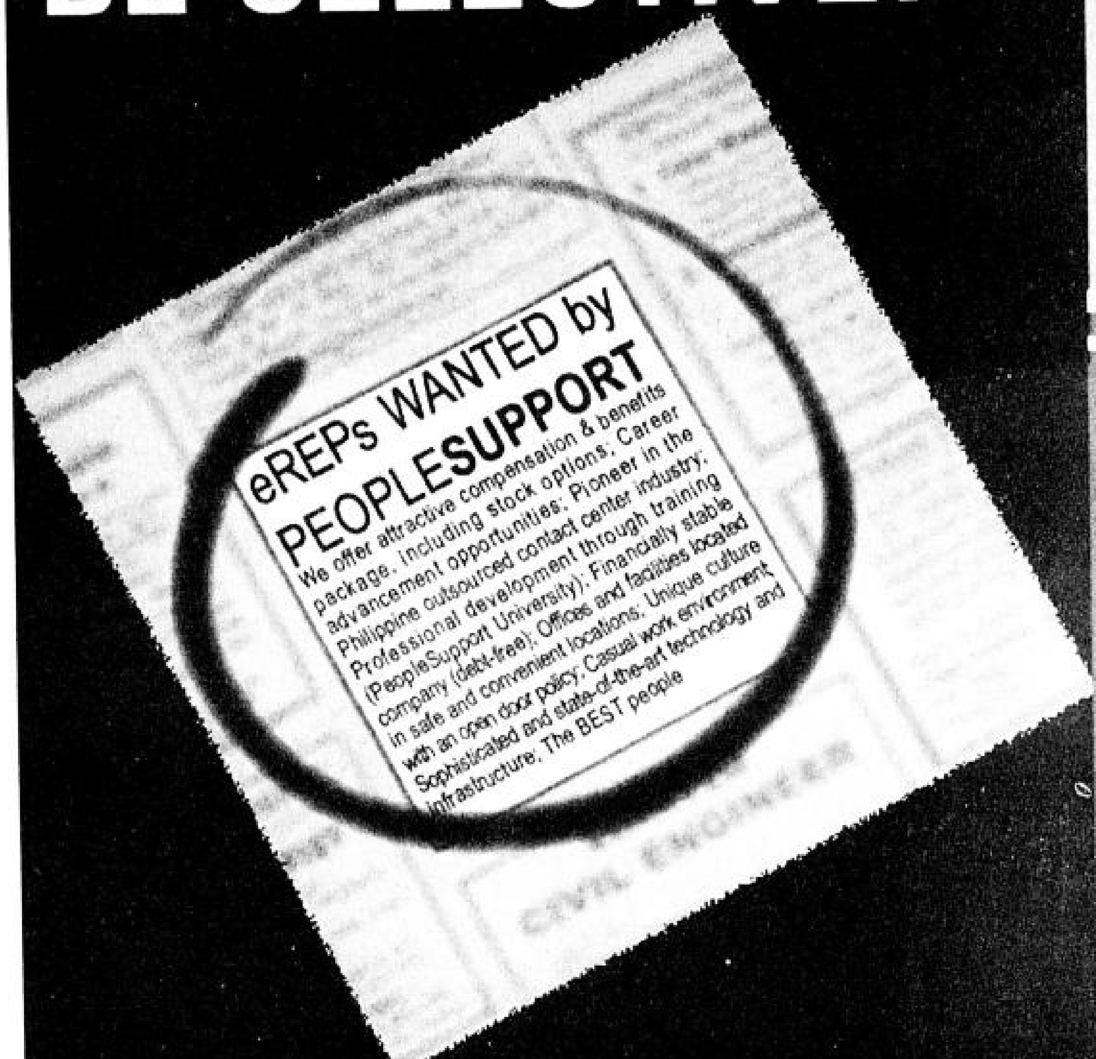

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E-mail your resumé to
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu
Visit for immediate interview
e-Office 1, AsiaTown I.T. Park,
Apas, Lahug, Cebu City
Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm
Call the Cebu HR Hotline at
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E-mail your resumé to
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eRep REQUIREMENTS

Excellent English Communication Skills
Strong Customer Service Skills
Problem Solving Skills
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Willing to work shifts

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With at least six months GDS experience

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Candidates must be assigned to a specific account to qualify for the Premium.

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Call the STC HR Hotline at
(02) 755-2672
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stcjobs@peoplesupport.com

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RESEARCHERS

(with at least one year working experience)

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(with or without experience)

- computer literate
- committed to be trained in the relevant skills
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- attentive to details
- reliable and able to work to deadlines
- able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- team player
- university degree

HR ASSISTANT

- 1-2 years experience in HR functions, preferably in a multinational company
- must be well-versed in SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-ibig Fund, tax withholding procedures and reporting requirements
- adept at payroll preparation
- computer literate
- well organized and attentive to details
- has a sense of urgency and can work to deadlines
- able to work under pressure and beyond normal working hours
- team player
- good oral and written English
- good interpersonal skills
- university degree

This is an entry level position. Knowledge of Philippine labor laws and other facets of HR services is a plus factor and will be an advantage in promotion to the next level.

All positions carry competitive salaries, life insurance, healthcare scheme and other benefits. Please send CV and covering letter to herlyn.david@synovate.com

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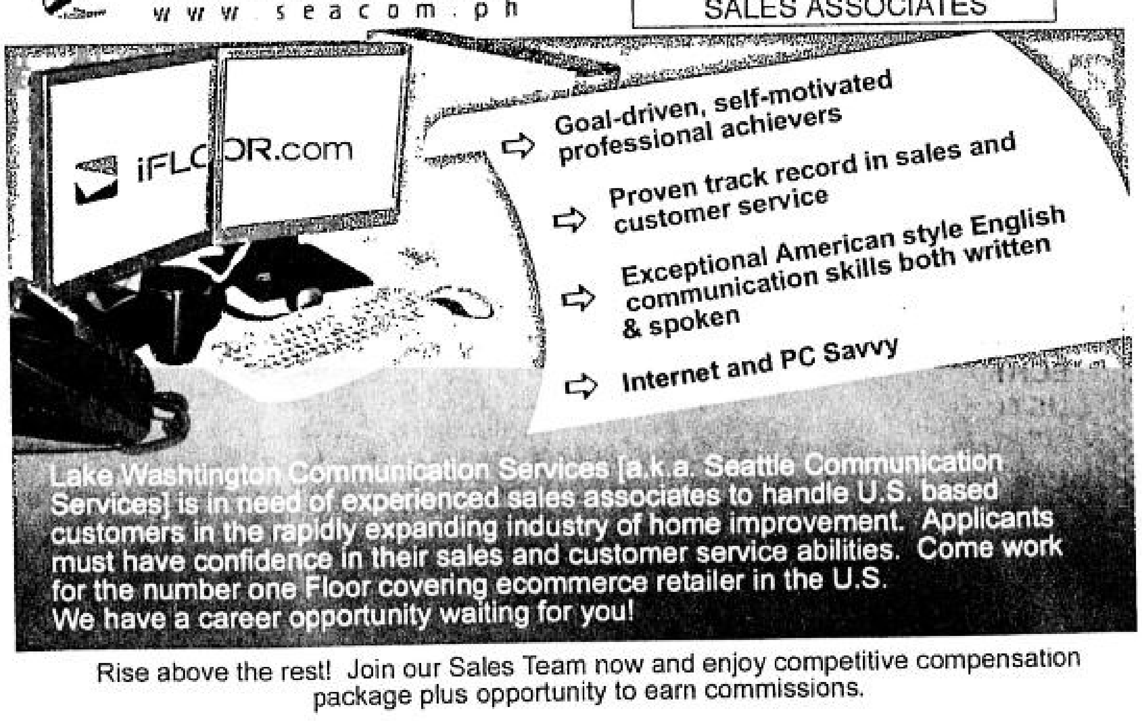

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- Can comply with set operations standards

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- English proficiency is a MUST

Interested parties may contact Girlie from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday at 416-0838.

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Unit 2D The West Wing Bldg.
107 West Avenue Quezon City
email: expressocarts@skydsl.com.ph

PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

(Film, music, fine arts, theater,...)

DUTIES:

- Planning, organisation, evaluation of cultural events
- Documentation of cultural programmes
- Contacts to Philippine cultural organisations
- Contacts to Philippine media

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Very good knowledge of the national and international arts scene
- Computer literacy
- Willingness to work outside office hours
- Some knowledge of German - or willingness to learn

Salary according to experience and on the local Goethe-Institute's salary scheme.

Please apply ASAP in writing to the:

DIRECTOR
Goethe-Institut Manila,
P.O. Box 2883, 1068 Manila, CPO
goethedi@pldtdsl.net

GOETHE INSTITUT MANILA

The **PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION (PEMC)** is a non-profit, private/public partnership tasked to implement and govern the Philippine **WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM).** The WESM will be the venue for the competitive and transparent trading of electricity.

The restructuring and deregulation of the Philippine electricity industry is a great challenge and we are seeking qualified individuals who are highly-motivated and have a deep sense of integrity and professionalism for the following **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

SHIFT MANAGER

B.S. Engineering (preferred) or Management/Economics with at least 5 years experience or Post graduate in Engineering or Economics with at least 3 years experience in Transmission and Generation Operations / Planning. Relevant experience in Electricity Markets and/or knowledge in conducting load flow studies is strongly preferred but not required. The ideal candidate will also be adequately familiar with the Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao power systems and demonstrate proficiency in the use of text editing, spreadsheet and Database Software.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Accounting, Finance, Economics or any related field with at least 3 years relevant experience (or Post Graduate with 2 years relevant experience) preferably with knowledge of the electricity industry and a strong finance background.

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with at least 3 years work experience or Post graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience in installation, configuration, operation and maintenance of inter-network operating systems of data communications equipment. Successful candidates will have had work experience in the implementation of network security and have had related experience in network system disaster and recovery procedures.

ACCOUNT OFFICER

B.S. in any related course with at least 3 years related work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) preferably with a working knowledge of the electricity industry and a finance and accounting background.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEER

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering (B.S. ECE), with at least 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in operations and maintenance of voice/data communications systems, Linux/MS Windows based desktop PC's and work stations, technical and business related commercial or in-house developed software, ERP size applications, computer systems disaster and recovery procedures.

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with at least 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in administering and monitoring server operating systems and ensuring security and proper integration of multiple sites, operation and maintenance of multi-tier heterogeneous mid-range UNIX-based and/or mainframe computer systems and installation, configuration and maintenance of Linux/MS Windows operating systems and in computer disaster and recovery procedures.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

B.S. Computer Science or Engineering with 3 years work experience (or Post Graduate course with at least 2 years relevant experience) in programming procedures and languages for client/server and web environment, developing dynamic web applications, web publishing and server administration, implementing and troubleshooting application, changes and modifications, determining computer problems and coordinate hardware and/or software solutions, computer flowcharts and program logic formulation, operations maintenance of multi-tier heterogeneous mid-range UNIX-based and/or mainframe computer systems.

MARKET OPERATOR

B.S. Engineering with at least 3 years experience (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience) in power transmission and generation. Candidates with experience related to Electricity Markets, literate in computer operation and documentation software tools, and with excellent oral and written communication skills are strongly preferred.

PROGRAMMER

Vocational Computer course with an at least 3 years relevant experience (or college degree with 1 year relevant experience) in programming procedures and programming languages for client/server and web environment, experience in implementing and troubleshooting application changes and modifications, determining computer problems and coordinate hardware and/or software solutions, experience in computer flow charts and program logic formulation.

IS/IT TECHNICIAN

Vocational Computer course with at least 3 years relevant experience (or college degree with 2 year relevant experience) in general maintenance and installation of computer and voice/data communication systems. Experience in using office automation software applications (MS Office, AutoCad etc.) a plus.

ACCOUNTANT - Finance Group

C.P.A., B.S. Degree in Business Administration major in Accounting with at least 3-years experience in financial statement preparation and analysis and related work (or Post Graduate with at least 2 years relevant experience). Computer literate, able to work with minimum supervision, has knowledge of the latest BIR rulings and the updated statements of Accounting Standards Council (ASC) and willing to work beyond the regular working hours.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Degree in any college course with at least 2 year work experience as stenographer and legal secretary. The successful candidate must possess good interpersonal skills and be able to work with minimum supervision.

Successful candidates can expect a fulfilling career and advancement opportunities in a dynamic work environment

Interested applicants may send their application letter (state position/s applied for), curriculum vitae, diploma, transcript of records and relevant supporting documents to:

Rodulfo M. Alfafara
Department Manager
or email: rmalfafara@wesm.ph
Administrative Services Department
9th Floor Robinson's Equitable Tower Ortigas Center Pasig City 1600

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A. STATISTICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

- Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics.
- Experience with SAS programming is essential
- Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis, and conjoint analysis.
- Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

B. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

- Not more than 25 years old, graduate of Statistics, Business Economics, Marketing, Sociology, Anthropology, Communications Research or Economics with above-average scholastic standing.
- Familiar with or has basic knowledge of research (design, implementation, data processing, and analysis)
- Adept with data, analytical, excellent writing and oral communications skills.
- Knowledge of a provincial dialect (Cebuano, Kapampangan, Ilocano, etc.) is an advantage

The role of the above individuals will be varied and challenging; within a friendly team environment; and it also offers very good career prospects.

If you are interested, please send your CV with photo, academic credentials or transcript of records to:

Human Resources Department
PHILIPPINE SURVEY & RESEARCH CENTER, INC. – RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL
PSRC Building, Calbayog cor. Kanlaon Sts.
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City

E-mail address: research@psrc-ri.com.ph

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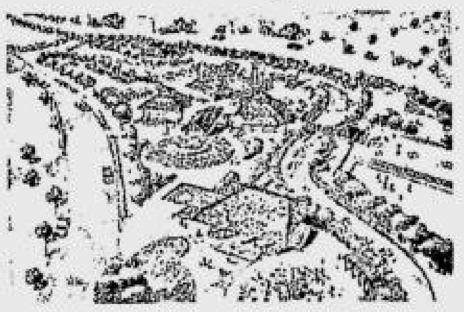

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If you are energetic, dynamic, flexible and self-driven, you can be one of us. We are looking for young individuals, 21 - 25 years old, with a college degree in business and/or marketing. He/she must be fluent in English, computer literate and a team player.

Interested applicants may submit their resume (with colored picture) and transcript of records at the 3/F Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to: tandocfrance.cii@ayalaland.com.ph If you are sending your application via e-mail, please indicate below-mentioned code as your subject, otherwise, the application will not be considered:

01PSCII

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A Private Company actively engaged in Trading and Chemical Industry has an Immediate need for the following position.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Accounting Graduate
- Female 21-30 years old, single
- Computer literate
- With at least 3 years experience.
- Proficient in both oral and written communication
- Efficient in taxation and bookkeeping
- Pleasant personality and can work under pressure

Pls. Bring RESUMÉ and supporting documents.
Interested applicant may apply at
Rm 3 D, C & E Realty,
26 Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
Tel. No. : 455-4984 • 984-2026
454-9285

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jay c. designs
is in need of the following:

CREATIVE ARTIST

Candidate must be able to conceptualize product designs for novelties, trophies and other acrylic products; M/F; College Graduate; Must know Coreldraw & Photoshop; Can work with minimum supervision

SALES COORDINATOR

M/F; 21 years above; College Graduate and preferably with work experience; Computer literate; With good oral and written communication skills

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

M/F; B.S. Industrial Engineering Graduate; Preferably with 1 year experience in the manufacturing industry

Please submit resume with recent picture to:
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. No. 927-1776; 5/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall
Tel. No. 635-629; LGF, SM City North EDSA Tel. No. 927-4150
or e-mail to: jayodesigns@pacific.net.ph

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If you are driven, preferrably college graduate, between 21 to 35 years old, aggressive, enjoys talking to people, with pleasing personality and proficient in English, apply in person and bring your resumé at BYKES CAFÉ (Ground Floor). La Fuerza Bldg. 2241 Chino Roces Ave. corner Sabio St., Makati City, from 10am to 5 pm

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Apply for the following positions in a leading salon business:

H.R. Assistant
- 35 years old or below
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Social Secretary/ Personal Assistant
- 30 to 40 years old
- organizational skills a must
- 4-year college course

Marketing Assistant
- 30 years and below
- 4-year college degree
- Proficient in English
- Personable
- Computer literate

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON
Salon Systems Management Inc.
Ground Floor, CSJ Bldg., 105 Aguirre St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Phone: 8124864 / 8130459
M-T-Th-F
2:30 - 4:30 p.m. only

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Industries, Incorporated

We are in need of the following:

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Female, between 21-32 years old. BS Accountancy graduate. Responsible, hardworking and self motivated. Can work well even under pressure

(1) Company Secretary
Female, between 21-32 years old. BS Graduate with pleasing personality. Above average oral and written communication skills. Can work well even undder pressure

(1) Company Driver
Male, between 21-36 years old at least High School or Vocational Course Graduate. With valid driver's license (R 1,2,3 more prefer). Has knowledge in basic troubleshooting

Interested applicant may apply in person, M-F (2-5PM). Bring your resumé with picture and other relevant documents.

#19 Detroit St., Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. Nos.: 724-9512 / -19 / -04
E-mail add: gladiusinc@pldtdsl.net

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cinderella

CINDERELLA GROUP, a leader among fashion retailers in the Philippines, would like to invite highly qualified individuals to join and be part of the Re-Engineered Dynamic and Creative Management Team.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
- Female; 25-35 years old, creative; works under pressure
- Mass Communication; Advertising or Marketing graduate
- At least 5 years experience in fashion retailing/ food industry and/ or advertising agencies
- Extensive knowledge and experience in Marketing Trends; advertising requirements; conceptualization and implementation of marketing plans and programs; brand positioning; promotions and launching campaigns and fashion trends.
- Can develop creative and effective advertising concepts
- Highly articulate with exposure in PR, advertising, marketing and market research
- Has passion for fashion; strong organizational skills

MERCHANDISE MANAGER/ BRAND MANAGER
- Female; 25-35 years of age
- Graduate of any business related course preferably with MBA degree/ units
- Minimum of two years experience in product management and development of fast moving consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Must be analytical, results-oriented, artistic, and creative with good fashion sense
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Financial awareness-bottomline driven; willing to travel

CONSIGNMENT MANAGER
- Female; 25 – 35 years of age
- Graduate of any business-related course; preferably with MBA units
- With at least 3-5 years experience in consignment operations from a retailing company
- Resourceful in marketing for consignors/ clients; with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales projections
- Must have extensive knowledge in merchandising trends and new product lines in the market

STORE MANAGERS
- Female; 25 - 30 years of age
- Bachelor's degree holder; with at least three (3) years managerial and/ or five (5) years supervisory experience in retail business
- Excellent organizational and people-handling skills
- Computer literate and highly results/ sales oriented
- Responsible for the overall management of the store to achieve targeted goal and maintain efficiency and effectiveness of store operations

Qualified applicants may send or email their comprehensive Resume' with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:

The HRMD
Cinderella Marketing Corporation
825 Edsa, Quezon City
email add: cinderella_job@yahoo.com

太つた少年

Marketing Manager (Code: MM)
- Between 25 to 35 years old
- At least 3 years experience in press and public relations, media handling and events management
- Experience in the development and execution of media plan and LSM for food chain will be an advantage
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience in brand management is an advantage

Commissary Manager (Code: CM)
- Between 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate of Industrial Engineering or any similar course
- With at least 3 years experience in the same capacity
- Can conduct studies and analysis in improving delivery logistics
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience in inventory & production management

Restaurant Managers/Mgt. Trainee (Code: MT)
- Between 23 to 32 years old
- College graduate preferably HRM or any business course
- With at least 2 years work experience on a managerial/supervisory capacity in the food industry
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

YOUR FAVORITE BOY® IS GROWING

We are looking for residents of Pasig,Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Taguig,Makati and Alabang to complete our team for our new stores

Accounting Clerk (Code: AC)
- Female, 24 to 27 years old
- Graduate of Accountancy
- At least 1 year experience in the same capacity
- Computer literate, knowledge in Payroll processing an advantage
- Trustworthy, hardworking & can work under pressure
- To be based in Pasig City

Maintenance Personnel (Code: MP)
- Male, 20 to 28 years old
- Has knowledge in refrigeration/airconditioning maintenance and repair
- Experience in plumbing, carpentry and electrical works
- With at least 1 year work experience in the same capacity
- Completed a vocational course on any of the competencies listed above

Applicants may send their comprehensive resume at #223 Oranbo Drive, Pasig City 1603 Or e-mail to lesliefm@mydestiny.net. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview.

Previous applicants need not apply.

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), is a three-year contract that aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH and HIV/AIDS.

MSH is currently searching for qualified candidates to fill in the position of Performance-based Contracts Manager.

The Performance-based Contracts Manager has overall financial responsibility and accountability for the subcontract management program, ensuring that contractors are able to manage their performance contracts efficiently and transparently in compliance with USAID regulations and Philippines Department of Health (DOH) national priorities, and ensuring project compliance with the terms and conditions of the **LEAD contract.** Duty station is Manila, Philippines.

DUTIES:

1. Keep abreast of USAID regulations to assist project staff, subcontractors, and grantees in adhering to the terms of the LEAD contract.
2. Maintain communications with Home Office to ensure compliance with organizational policies and procedures and coordination of activities.
3. In collaboration with the Home Office and LEAD technical staff, draft solicitations, conduct and document source selection, negotiate costs and other conditions, prepare awards and modifications, seek required approvals, monitor implementation, and close-out.
4. Prepare and provide training for project staff, subcontractors, and grantees on US government regulations and financial management.
5. Participate in the design and implementation of an effective performance-based grants program in accordance with USAID regulations and reporting requirements.

Desired Qualifications:

1. Master's degree in accounting or business management or Bachelor's degree with equivalent relevant experience working with NGOs required; MBA preferred.
2. Significant relevant experience in grants management and financial/operational systems preferred.
3. Substantial experience implementing USAID-supported projects and knowledge of USAID regulations and procedures strongly preferred.
4. Previous supervisory and training experience required.
5. Demonstrated writing, analytical, planning, and organizing skills.
6. Proficient in MS Office (particularly MS Word and Excel).
7. Performs well under pressure, demonstrated capacity to work effectively in a team.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than February 4, 2005 through any of the following:

Mail : Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax : (632) 521-0950

If you're at least 21 years old, **HARDWORKING, ARTICULATE** and you've got a **PLEASING PERSONALITY** then you should be a part of our **Bulacan, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Iloilo and Manila** offices as:

SALES EXECUTIVES	At least college level At least 1 year sales experience of any product Willing to do fieldwork and work on extended hours
CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS	College graduate Experience in call centers, restaurants, product sales promotion or as a receptionist is an advantage
CIVIL ENGINEERS	Licensed Civil Engineer, with at least 4 years experience in road construction Knows how to drive Willing to work on extended hours With experience in handling personnel
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	Female Graduate of any business related course With experience in the same position
OFFICE STAFFS	Preferably single Graduate of any business related course
ACCOUNTING STAFF	Female Accounting course graduate, preferably a CPA With experience in general accounting

Very attractive compensation package, which can go up to P50,000 plus incentives/commissions await you.
We prefer applicants from Metro Manila schools

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THE REAL ESTATE COMPANY
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WANTED

MOLD & TOOL DESIGNER
- Preferably Mechanical Engineer Graduate or related course;
- At least 3 years experience with Auto CAD 2002 and/or above;
- W/ experience in Machine Shop work is an advantage.

Pls. call 984-02-73

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- ✓ Male or female not older than 30 years old
- ✓ With at least 1 year work experience
- ✓ Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel
- ✓ Has multi-tasking ability with good interpersonal skills
- ✓ Good oral & written English communication skills

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATION GRADUATE
- ✓ Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Excel
- ✓ Proficient in both oral & written English
- ✓ Should have pleasing personality
- ✓ Client oriented & dependable
- ✓ New graduates are welcome

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Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

URGENT NEED!
OFFICE SALES PERSONNEL
- CANDIDATE MUST BE FEMALE, WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ANY COMPUTER FIELD OR EQUIVALENT
- WITH GOOD MORAL CHARACTER
- NOT MORE THAN 26 YEARS OLD
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- NEWLY GRADUATES ARE WELCOME

INTERESTED CANDIDATES MAY SEND RESUMÉ AT: #449 BULALAKAW ST., PLAINVIEW, MANDALUYONG CITYnear MANDALUYONG CITY HALL. Tel. # 747-6428 / 31 or e-mail us at @egccwi@pldtsi.net

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WÜRTH

Welcome to Würth Career

There could be an exciting opportunity for you to be one of us. We are a multi-national Company which is wholly owned by Würth Germany engaged in Trading Business selling Automotive Products. The company is in need for:

1) AREA REPRESENTATIVES
(must be residents of Cagayan Valley, Isabela, La Union, Olongapo, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Cebu, Leyte, Samar, Bohol, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Bukidnon, Iligan, Pagadian, Dipolog, Ozamis)
- Male or female 21 – 38 years old
- Graduate of any Business related or Engineering course
- Goal oriented, ambitious, and driven to achieve high performance
- With strong leadership potential
- Possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Flexible, aggressive, dynamic and a good team player
- Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply
- Willing to do sales fieldwork

2) FIELD COLLECTORS
(for North Luzon, Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, Visayas, Mindanao assignment)
- Male 21 – 38 years old
- Graduate of any Business related or Engineering course
- Background in collection is an advantage
- Willing to do sales fieldwork

We provide basic compensation plus commissions and bonuses, car plan and trip incentives. Qualified applicants may apply personally, mail, email or fax their resume with 2x2 colored picture to:

WÜRTH – DER MONTAGEPROFI
Wurth Holding GmbH
Aspermontstrasse 1
Postfach
7004 Chur/Switzerland
Telefon: +41 81 558 00 00
Telefax: +41 81 558 10 00
www.wurth-holding.com

WÜRTH PHILIPPINES, INC.
Advanced Warehousing Industrial Park
Km. 22 East Service Road
Brgy. Cupang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No: + 63 2 842-3599
Fax No: + 63 2 842-2440
+ 63 2 842-0830
E-mail: info@wuerth.com.ph

WÜRTH – DER MONTAGEPROFI liefert Schrauben, Schraubenzubehör, Verbindungs- und Befestigungsmaterial, chemisch-technische Produkte, Dübel, Möbel- und Baubeschläge, Isolierungen, Hand-, Elektro- und Druckluftwerkzeuge, Service- und Pflege-Produkte, Bevorratungs- und Entnahmesysteme.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE CORPORATION

The Municipal Finance Corporation (MFC) is inviting interested qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

CODE: CS-1 CORPORATE SECRETARY

Qualifications:
- Preferably a Lawyer;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in corporate affairs;
- Must be a Corporate Lawyer in previous employment;
- Must be above average in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: LM-1 LEGAL MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certified Lawyer;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience as head of corporate affairs and lending operations;
- Must be above average in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: LS-1 LEGAL SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certified Lawyer;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in corporate affairs and lending operations;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: MIS-1 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in computer course or any related field;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in management and information system;
- Must be knowledgeable in programming, software operations, hardware and trouble shooting;
- Must have attended relevant training;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: LOD-1 LENDING OPERATIONS MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Must hold a master's degree relevant to the position;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in handling ODA funded projects in a supervisory position;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in handling development financing for LGUs in a supervisory position;
- Must be knowledgeable with the procedures and guidelines of multilateral and bilateral financing institutions and with established network in the ODA community;
- Must have a sound understanding of the concept operation of the Municipal Development Fund, as well as related statues and national regulations;
- Must have attended relevant training;
- Must be above in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: LOD-AS-2 ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree relevant to the position;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in handling ODA funded projects;
- Must be knowledgeable with the procedures and guidelines of multilateral and bilateral financing institutions;
- Must have attended relevant training;
- Must be above average in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: LOD-AS-1 ACCOUNT SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree relevant to the position,
- Must have at least (3) years experience in handling development financing for LGUs;
- Must be knowledgeable with the concept and operation of the Municipal Development Fund, as well as related statues and national regulations;
- Must have attended relevant training;
- Must be above average in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: HRDS-1 HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in human resources or any related field;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience involving personnel administration, office management and general administration support services;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English, and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: AM-1 ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- Must hold a master's degree relevant to the position;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience involving general accounting management covering the areas of financial planning, control and budgeting that includes the designs, installations and implementations of the appropriate accounting and budgeting systems, as well as the formulation of policies and procedures in a supervisory position;
- Must be above average in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: BS-1 BUDGET SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in accounting or any related field;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience involving control and budgeting that includes the designs, installations and implementations of the appropriate budgeting systems, as well as the formulation of policies and procedures;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: EA-1 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in relative to the position,
- Must have at least three (3) years of relevant experience;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate.

CODE: CA-1 CASHIER

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in accounting or any related field,
- Must have at least five (5) years experience in over-all operations in cash receiving and disbursement that includes the cashiering, handing of and accounting of money in supervisory position,
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: CC-1 CASH CLERK

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree in accounting or any related field;
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in cash receiving and disbursement.
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: SEC-3 SECRETARY

Qualifications:
- Must hold a bachelor's degree relative to the position;
- Must have at least two (2) years of relevant experience;
- Must be proficient in written and oral English; and
- Must be computer literate

CODE: MR-2 MESSENGER

Qualifications:
- Must at least be a High School graduate,
- Must have at least two (2) years of messengerial experience.

CODE: D-3 DRIVER

Qualifications:
- Must at least be a High School graduate;
- Must be a holder of a Professional Driver's License;
- Must have at least three (3) years of driving experience;

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before February 11, 2005 to:

CODE: _____
MUNICIPAL FINANCE CORPORATION
Podium Level, Executive Tower Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN MINDANAO

An international educational media and training organization has an immediate need for a **PROJECT COORDINATOR** to coordinate and actively implement English language instruction and enrichment programs. The project will serve various populations all over Mindanao through audio, print and face-to-face teacher and radio broadcaster training. Project beneficiaries will be students in elementary and high schools, their teachers and families, teachers in formal training programs, older students of English, and general radio audiences.

He/She will work in decentralized team assisting the Project Manager while also working very independently to assure that schools and communities are using the materials effectively. He/She will monitor all activities and identify ways the project can improve services; seek opportunities to extend services to new communities; manage materials production and distribution; procure supplies; coordinate and assist trainings of teachers and broadcasters; liaise with educational and broadcast partner institutions in Cotabato, Zamboanga, Manila and elsewhere; identify problems and issues and propose solutions; prepare status reports; manage and track expenditures; and do other specified tasks.

Minimum requirements are: a bachelor's degree in a relevant field such as education, development communications, public or business administration; (one or more years of graduate studies is desirable, masters degree preferred); at least 4 years of progressive responsibility in project or related management in the field of education; ability to develop and maintain a wide range of contacts with educational and other government officials; excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills; computer literate. Must have extensive knowledge (possibly resident) of the cultures of Mindanao (esp. ARMM, Region 12 and Region 9). English language teaching experience is a major plus. Competitive salary (including year-end bonuses).

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé not later than **February 1, 2005**. Mail should be sent to:

RWP Human Resources
c/o SEAMEO INNOTECH Regional Center
P.O. Box 207, University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines

It is greatly preferred and appreciated if candidates send duplicate email to:
sleigh64@aol.com

Location: Rapu Rapu (via Legaspi City) is a poly-metallic mine which is currently under construction with metal production commencing mid 2005. Rapu Rapu offers first class facilities, excellent remuneration conditions and a roster that gives you good lifestyle balance.

Rapu Rapu Minerals Inc. is seeking suitably qualified and experienced persons for the following site based positions;

SENIOR SURVEYOR

- Reporting initially to the Chief Surveyor, responsible for safely leading the Mine Survey team, consisting of two mine surveyors, several survey assistants and clerks. This position will work closely with the mining contractor requiring communication skills to be excellent.
- Possess experience and skills required to implement survey control for conventional open pit mining techniques. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Producing accurate plans as requested in a timely manner.
- Responsible for developing systems and procedures for all activities undertaken by the Survey Department, including supervision and training Survey personnel. A high regard for safety is essential.
- Possess relevant degree and Geodetic Engineer (or equivalent) qualification. The candidate should have sound experience with mining software.

MINE SURVEYORS

- Reporting to the Senior Surveyor, responsible for undertaking the day to day survey tasks as required to operate the open pit mine.
- Experience in open pit mining although not necessary will be highly regarded. Main tasks include pit design set out, ore markups, toe/batter checks, grade control drilling pickup and set out, stockpile volumes, and end of month final excavated volume. Candidates must be physically fit and willing to work in a challenging environment.
- Must be team player and willing to learn as well as pass on knowledge to less experienced members of the team.
- Be degree qualified, and have had some exposure to mining software packages.

To be the successful applicant for any of these positions you will have a high level of personal integrity, be able to work in a remote location and in a team environment, have proper regard for Safety and Environment and be enthusiastic and dedicated. If that sounds like you and you want a prestigious position with an emerging mining company, please apply in writing before 31st January 2005, to:

The Commercial Manager - Rapu Rapu Project
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo St.,
Makati City, Philippines 1229

FIL-ASIA CONCEPTS, INC.

is urgently in need of::

STORE SUPERVISOR

College graduate with excellent interpersonal & communication skills, computer literate, with good research skills, and with at least (2 years) work experience in mall or retail management in the areas of leasing, marketing, customer service, advertising and promotion, in a supervisory capacity.

For manpower pooling for future requirements:

OPERATIONS ADMIN. ASST.

College graduate, computer literate; trained in MS Office, preferably female, 23 – 30 years old, and with good interpersonal & communication skills. Possesses pleasing personality & is well groomed. Willing & able to work long hours.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASST.

College graduate, with at least one (1) year customer service work experience or its equivalent, with pleasing personality and well-groomed, proficient in written and spoken English & Tagalog, and computer literate, preferably trained in MS Office.

Perferably, residents of Ortigas, Q.C., or Alabang.

Interested applicants should submit their comprehensive resume' with transcript of school records and ID photo to:

HR Department
Unit 2010 Robinsons Equitable Tower
ADB Ave., Cor. Poveda St.,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel#: 638-6077/687-3445

Network Essentials Corporation AMD

A fast-growing IT-based distribution company is looking for highly motivated individuals to be part of the team

CHANNEL SALES EXECUTIVES

Male or Female; A self-driven Graduate of any 4-year course; Not more than 28 years old; Excellent Sales skills; Articulate; Ability to establish/ maintain new accounts; Experience in computer (PC) parts and peripherals sales a definite advantage; Computer literate; Exceptional analytical and communication skills

OFFICE/ ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female; not more than 28 years old; Graduate of a 4-year college or 2-year vocational course; Adept at filing office documents; With background in Inventory Management and Records Upkeep; With knowledge of computer parts & peripherals; Computer literate (esp Excel); Good organizational skills

TELEMARKETER

Male or Female, not more than 28 years old, Graduate of a 4-year college or 2-year vocational course; Proficient in Oral and Written English; Computer Literate (Word, Excel Powerpoint); With background in selling computer parts & peripherals

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS / FULL TIME OJT

Male, not more than 25 years old, At least college level -Computer Engineering or Graduate of a related 2-year vocational course; Adept at computer troubleshooting; Comprehensive background in computer parts & peripherals; Computer literate (Word, Excel); Good organizational skills

Positions also open: Motorcycle/ Company Driver

MSI LITEON Antec AIPTEK www.aiptek.com PQI

Qualified applicants may send their resumes with recent picture and transcript of records to:

Network Essentials Corp.
173 EDSA, G/F CSP Bldg, Mandaluyong City
(Indicate position applied for)

Positions open for Quezon City and Mandaluyong Offices.

DEALER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Electronics, Marketing and any other business related course
- Computer literate
- With experience in selling Electronic Cash Register machine and office equipment
- Fast learner/to handle dealer sales network
- Not more than 30 years old

Apply in person to:
OLYMPIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
1402-1408 Pres. Quirino Ave. cor South Super Highway
Paco Manila

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

1. **GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) II**
   - A. **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL (OCLC)**
     Item No. OMBA-GI02-112-1998; SG-27
   - B. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A**
     Item Nos. OMBA-GI02-10-1998; OMBA-GI02-12-1998; OMBA-GI02-19-1998; OMBA-GI02-20-1998; SG-27 (4 Positions)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

II **GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER (GIPO) I**
   - A. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A**
     Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-46-1998; OMBA-GI01-119-1998; OMBA-GI01-131-1998; SG-26 (3 Positions)
   - B. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – B**
     Item No. OMBA-GIO1-65-1998; SG-26
   - C. **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – C**
     Item Nos. OMBA-GI01-71-1998; OMBA-GI01-107-1998; SG-26 (2 Positions)
   - D. **FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)**
     Item No. OMBA-GI01-24-1998; OMBA GI01-53-1998 (Intelligence Bureau); SG-26 (2 Positions)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

III **FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE (FIO)**

GRAFT PREVENTION AND CONTROL OFFICER V – Item No. OMBA-GPCO5-17-2003 (ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER IV) SG-24
Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Two (2) years of experience in investigation / intelligence operations, systems and operations review / analyses / audit, or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Four (4) years of experience in investigation / intelligence operations, systems and operations review / analyses / audit, or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position

IV **CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION**
   - A. **RECORDS OFFICER II** – Item No. OMBA-RO2-1-1998; SG13
     Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: One (1) year of relevant experience; Training: Four (4) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility
   - B. **COMPUTER OPERATOR III** – Item No. OMBA-COMPO3-13-2003; SG12
     Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college or High School Graduate with relevant vocational / trade course; Experience: Two (2) years of relevant experience: Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / Data Encoder (MC 11, s.96-Cat. I/First Level Eligibility

V **PLANNING AND BUDGET DIVISION**
   - A. **BUDGET OFFICER I** – Item No. OMBA-BUDO1-1-1998; SG-11
     Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility
   - B. **PLANNING OFFICER I** – Item No. OMBA-PLO1-1-1998; SG-11
     Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional / Second Level Eligibility

VI **MONITORING AND EDP DIVISION**

PROJECT EVALUATION ASSISTANT – Item No. OMBA-PEA-1-1998; SG-8
Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: One year of relevant experience; Training: 4 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

VII **ACCOUNTING DIVISION**
   - A. **ACCOUNTANT IV** – Item No. OMBA-A4-1-1998; SG-22
     Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce / Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: Three years of relevant experience; Training: Sixteen hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)
   - B. **ACCOUNTANT I** – Item No. OMBA-A1-2-1998; SG-11
     Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)

VIII **PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) – A**

STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III – Item No. OMBA-STENR3-26-1998; SG-11
Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Two years of relevant experience; Training: Eight hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

IX **BUREAU OF PRESIDENT OMBUDSMAN (BRO)**

CLERK III – Item Nos. OMBA-CK3-4-1998 and OMBA-CK3-8-1998; SG-8
Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

Interested applicants should submit applications within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following: 1) AN APPLICATION LETTER STATING THE POSITION/ITEM APPLIED FOR; 2) DULY ACCOMPLISHED PERSONAL DATA SHEET (CSC FORM 212); 3) 1" x 1" PICTURE (COLORED); 4) BAR RATING/CSC CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY; 5) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS; 6) CERTIFICATE OF SEMINARS/TRAININGS ATTENDED (CSC ACCREDITED) and 7) CERTIFICATE FROM PREVIOUS / PRESENT EMPLOYMENT STATING THE POSITION, ACTUAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (IF APPLICABLE)

Marketing/Sales

Great Opportunity with new Philippine Corporation.

LSTC, a new corporation in the Philippines (sole Distributor of the MailBug) introducing the MailBug (E-Mail Terminal and ISP Service) is seeking professional well groomed and classy female, fluent in English and Tagalog, degreed in Sales and Marketing or Business, with 3-5 years experience in Sales and Marketing in the Computer or Telecommunication Industries. Hard working professional shall develop and secure new accounts with Distributors and Retailers in Metro Manila. Same individual shall also manage sales and delivery requirements from the Distributors and Retail Sales with TL&A International, who manages Materials and Manufacturing of the Mailbug in Laguna.

Qualified applicants should contact LSTC directly (522-2605, 525-6551), Fax Resumé (521-1227) or e-mail resumé to:

LSTC@mailbug.ph or tomlandry@mailbug.ph
All resumés must be submitted
no later than 02/04/05.

A top 5 Global Services Provider

Outsourced Customer Services Provider for over 30 years

With more than 20, 000 ++ Associates world wide

JOB VACANCIES:

FOR MANILA:

Customer Service Representatives
Technical Support Representatives
Payroll Supervisor
Payroll Assistant
Accounting Assistant

FOR BAGUIO:

Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives
Admin and Facilities Officer
Telecoms Engineer
Site Support Supervisor
Site Support Technician
Employment Administrator
Purchasing Clerk

JOBFAIRS:

PASIG:
Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Jan 31 - Feb 4
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) Jan 31 - Feb 4
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

Bring your resume w/ 2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

XAX

XAX MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Needs You!

Wanted Full Time or Retainer

Web Page Designer
Ads & Promo Coordinator
Accounting Assistant
Marketing Coordinator
Sales Executive
Financial Manager
Administrative Assistant

Interested Party, You can Bring your Resume at
XAX Music Entertainment
14th Floor Rufino Pacific Tower
6784 Ayala Ave., Makati City
811-0725/7513175 to 76
email address: feedback@xaxmusic.com
www.xaxmusic.com

Zyrel Limited
Philippine Representative Office

Zyrel, Inc., a fast-growing provider of electronics manufacturing services based in Silicon Valley USA is looking for its Philippine office a

Logistics Specialist

Requirements:

- Graduate of engineering or management course
- With at least 3-5 years experience in logistics operations (i.e. freight forwarding) as a supervisor or manager
- Computer literate (MS Office, Internet)
- With hands-on experience on MRP
- Knowledge and experience on packaging techniques and warehousing is a definite advantage
- Must be able to work well with different cultures, and able to suggest and sell his/her improvement ideas
- Above-average communications skills
- Wiling to travel

Interested parties may send their resume via fax or email no later than Feb. 4, 2005.

Email: info@zyrel-phil.com.ph
Fax No: (02) 850 6456

OLIVAREZ COLLEGE

Dr. A. Santos Ave. Sucat Pque. City

Is in need of the ff.

1. **GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**
   (M.A. holder with experience in private school)
2. **SPORTS CENTER SUPERVISOR**
   (experience in Sales & Mktg.)

If interested, please call:
825-7189/825-7119/827-0704/
829-0703 loc. 127 or proceed to the HRD Director's Office.

ABC®

American Bio-Clinical Laboratories, International

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES/MARKETING MANAGER

Qualifications: Degree in Marketing
Female, not more than 35 years of age.
Minimum 5 years related experience.

Generic Role:

- Develop marketing strategies, evaluate market conditions and recommend policy changes to encourage maximum sales activity.
- Develop, manage, and guide sales activities for ABCLabs, Int'l.
- Direct sales force, marketing staff and ABC Labs' branches.
- Propose and execute policies and programs to achieve maximum sales volume potential for laboratory tests and services.
- Design and apply sales strategies and sales plans.
- Provide marketing expertise to the executive management team.
- Manage Research & Development programs and activities; facilitate improvements and introduction of new laboratory tests and services.
- Integrate research, development, sales and marketing strategies to successfully install new laboratory tests and services.
- Facilitate contract bids and negotiate contract changes.
- Review contracts and/or joint-venture agreement and ensures all terms and conditions of the contract are met.

All qualified applicants may submit resume with supporting documents to:

American Bio-Clinical Laboratories, Int'l.
Suite LG-5/6 Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel. Nos: 850-6288; 850-6289 Fax: 850-6287

A social enterprise organization engaged in Fair Traded Handicrafts is urgently in need of energetic and innovative people for the following posts:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

☐ Male or Female, 23-35 years old, graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management, has a minimum of 1-2 years experience in Human Resource Management preferably in a non-government organization, possesses excellent oral and written communication skills, computer-literate and can relate to people of all levels.

EXPORT MARKETING ASSISTANT

☐ Male or Female, 23-30 years old, graduate of any Business Related Course, with a minimum of 1-2 years experience in export trading, proficient in oral and written communication, computer-literate, flexible, results-oriented and can relate to people of all levels.

If you meet the above qualifications, please send /fax/e-mail your resume and application letter addressed to:

The Executive Director
2594 Lamayan Street
Sta. Ana, Manila

Or fax to 563-4632 • e-mail: saffy@safrudi.com. Short-listed applicants will be notified.

MSH LEAD

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), is a three-year contract that aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (Vitamin A/MCH, TB, and HIV/AIDS), and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill in the position of Human Resources Manager.

The Human Resources (HR) Manager will perform a variety of HR activities, including employee relations, recruitment, benefits, orientation, policies and regulations, and administration of personnel systems. The HR Manager, in collaboration with the LEAD project staff, will be responsible for LEAD's recruitment activities covering both technical and administrative staff appointments. The HR Manager serves as a resource person with respect to USAID regulations, LEAD policies, and the LEAD benefits program. He or she collaborates with MSH/Cambridge staff including HR administration and project support. He or she is aware of and adheres to MSH's Procurement Integrity standards in all activities. Duty station is Manila, Philippines.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. **Recruitment:** Define recruitment needs, develop clear job descriptions, manage the intake of applications, review and circulate CVs, identify advertisement resources, perform initial interview of candidates, and check references. Provide progress reports to and regularly communicate with project management staff and update Boston regarding recruitment activities. Maintain CV files for future recruitment efforts..
2. **Hiring:** Negotiate salary with the selected candidate. Secure necessary USAID concurrences and approvals for selected candidates. Prepare employment letters.
3. **Personnel**: Create and maintain accurate personnel files on all employees. Assist project management in equitable implementation and enforcement of personnel policies. Act as a liaison with Human Resources and Administration in Cambridge. Be available to employees regarding confidential employment matters, career development, job satisfaction, and grievance and discipline issues. Maintain, revise, and update the Employee Handbook as necessary.
4. **Benefits Program:** Oversee the administration of the benefits program. Evaluate and revise the benefit package as necessary and communicate any changes to project staff.
5. **Orientation:** Develop and conduct as needed an orientation program for all new staff to review LEAD benefits, performance standards, and policies.
6 **HR Advisory Capacity:** Provide project management with HR perspective on potential impacts of issues and actions affecting project staff.
7. **Procurement Integrity:** Provide procurement integrity training to new and continuing staff to ensure that MSH standards and USAID regulations are adhered to particularly in regard to the recruitment of new staff.
8. **Compensation:** Administer the compensation program for local staff and consultants. Ensure salary structures and guidelines are followed. Provide advice to management staff. Develop salary banding structure for the project staff.
9. **Performance Planning and Review (PPR):** Oversee the performance planning and review process for local staff. Ensure plans and reviews are completed in a timely manner. Maintain PPR records.
10. **Office Management:** Oversee office management and coordinate with the Office Manager regarding provision of administrative and operations support services to the project.
11. **Supervision:** Supervise appropriate HR or operations staff.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Master's Degree preferred or Bachelor's Degree with significant experience in human resources management, including recruitment and personnel management.
2. Significant experience working with USAID programs preferred.
3. Familiar with pertinent employment benefits programs and laws.
4. Demonstrated ability to handle confidential matters discreetly and gain the trust and confidence of colleagues; experience in conflict resolution helpful.
5. Competence to assess priorities, manage a variety of complex activities simultaneously in a time-sensitive environment, and meet competing deadlines.
6. Excellent interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to interact professionally with diverse staff, clients, and consultants.
7. Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.
8. Proven ability to successfully participate on teams in a fast-paced environment.
9. Excellent oral and written communications skills.
10. Solid computer skills; proficiency in word-processing, and spreadsheet programs; Microsoft Office preferred.
11. English fluency required; additional language skills helpful.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter, with a comprehensive resume showing details of their work experience, academic background, and references not later than February 11, 2005 through any of the following:

Mail: Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila

Fax: (632) 521-0950

A progressive company engaged in Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) services in Information and communications technology, career management, and integrated business solutions.

Pathfinder
Technology
Synergy
Value

SENIOR HR MANAGER

Qualifications:

- A graduate of Psychology/ Behavioral Science/ Human Resource Management, preferably with a Masters Degree (Industrial Psychology)
- Minimum of 5 years experience as HR Manager
- Direct Experience with Recruitment & Selection, Compensation Plans, Policy Formulation, Rewards & Recognition, Performance Management, Job Evaluation, Salary Survey & Structuring, Merit Systems & Bonus Schemes, Employee & Industrial Relations, Training & Organizational Development.
- Knowledge of labor laws, testing instruments pertaining to recruitment, payroll & compensation principles, training principles and staffing & forecasting principles based on historical trends
- Highly dynamic, with strong leadership, organizational and people management skills
- Ability to engage with personnel across levels of the organizations

Please send your résumé to ***contactus@pathfindertechnologysolutions.com***

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

LABEL DESIGNER

- Male, 20-28 years old
- With good moral attitude
- Mechanical Engineering course. Graduate or undergraduate
- Knowledgeable in basic drawing using computer
- Preferably with experience in weaving machine & needle loom.

Interested applicants can submit their resumé personally through registered mail with 2x2 pictures & other related credentials to:

TOPWAY INTERNATIONAL IND'L., INC.
3 Donesa St., West Canumay,
Valenzuela City / Attention: Ms. Julie

MICROCADD TECHNOLOGIES
5/l Dona Consolacion Bldg., 807 Gen. Santos Ave
Araneta Center,Cubao, Quezon City / Tel No 911 6850

[illegible]
-**STAAD Instructors**
-**CAD Instructors**
(Full time · Part time send resume)
Operations Support
-**Accounting Supervisor**
-**HR Assistant**
-**Marketing Staffs**
[illegible]
-**CAD Operators**
-**Computer Techs.**
[illegible]

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

UNFPA Programme Manager for Mindanao for the Mindanao Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the guidance and supervision of the UNFPA Representative and working in close collaboration with the designated UNFPA Area Officers, the Programme Manager shall have overall responsibility for project operations in Mindanao, particularly in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao Sur, Sulu, Tawi-tawi, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato Province under the 6th UNFPA Country Programme, effectively managing internal and external resources in order to achieve results. More specifically, the Programme Manager has the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Leads a team of technical and support staff and works closely with the regional, provincial and municipal implementing partners to ensure the implementation of the population, reproductive health and gender components of the 6th CP in the project areas in Mindanao.
2. Organizes the Mindanao Office, defines roles and responsibilities of staff, sets up systems and procedures based on UNFPA rules and regulations, and manages its day-to-day operations.
3. Prepares annual and quarterly operational plans, develops monitoring tools and installs the project database
4. Monitors the progress of attaining provincial and municipal Annual Work Plan outputs and programme outcomes; addresses operational problems and issues; and ensures that regional, provincial and municipal activities are carried out in accordance with agreed UNFPA and government policies and procedures and on a timely basis.
5. Reviews, analyzes and consolidates the annual and quarterly work and financial plans and project reports submitted by the Mindanao provinces and municipalities and submits these documents to the UNFPA Central Office based on agreed deadlines.
6. Coordinates the needs and requirements of the programme in Mindanao from the national and regional down to the provincial and municipal levels and facilitates the requests for technical, administrative and financial assistance.
7. Establishes and maintains linkages with other related projects, institutions and inter-agency committees in the area.and keeps abreast of developments that may have implications on the implementation of the programme in Mindanao.
8. Prepares and submits quarterly and annual progress reports to the Central Office.
9. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative.

Qualifications:

Must have a Masters Degree in Public Health or related fields and preferably be a doctor of medicine or have a bachelors degree in a social science field
Must have at least five years of solid experience in the planning and management of population, reproductive health and gender projects
Familiarity with UN rules and procedures is an asset
Must possess excellent interpersonal, communication (both oral and written) and negotiation skills
Exercises critical judgment with regard to institutional policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure consistency with the organization's mandate
Encourages full participation of all staff members in office processes and decisions while ensuring commitment to organizational vision and priorities
Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and internet applications
Preferably a resident of Mindanao
Willing to travel to conflict-affected areas and be based in Davao.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
P.O. Box 7285 DAPO
1300 Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Or through emailat officemail@unfpa.org.ph

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 11 February 2005 (Only short-listed applicants will be notified).

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Reproductive Health Adviser for the UNFPA Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the technical guidance of the UNFPA Programme Officer for RH and the immediate administrative supervision of the Programme Manager, the RH Adviser shall provide technical assistance to the UNFPA-assisted provinces, municipalities and NGOs in Mindanao in reproductive health, particularly in the thematic areas of: a) family planning, b) maternal health, c) STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and management; and d) adolescent reproductive health. More specifically, he or she shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assist in the review of the RH research instruments to be used in the baseline surveys and community assessments. Provide technical guidance during the conduct of the survey and assist in the analysis and interpretation of results.
2. Organize the RH team composed of the PHO, MHOs and the Chiefs of the provincial and district hospitals and mobilize them in the conduct health facilities and training needs assessments in UNFPA-assisted provinces and municipalities.
3. Using the survey and assessment results, and in consultation with the LGUs and NGOs: a) identify the key RH needs of the provinces and municipalities; b) validate whether the RH activities in the AWPs and the underlying strategies respond to these needs; and c) make adjustments in the AWPs and prepare the comprehensive RH technical assistance plan.
4. Implement the technical assistance plan. Assist the RH team in the following:
   a. Installation of the RH protocols and standard practice guidelines in all the health facilities.
   b. Preparation of the training plan for service providers.
   c. Preparation of the IEC/ advocacy (communication) plan.
   d. Upgrading of health facilities to meet Sentrong Sigla and Philhealth accreditation standards.
   e. Provision of technical updates on the latest developments in RH.
5. Coordinate the timing and implementation of national NGO RH inputs to the provinces and municipalities and ensure that the provinces and municipalities are prepared to receive the assistance.
6. Conduct regular monitoring of the RH activities of the provinces and municipalities together with UNFPA Programme Officers, MHDO, the regional offices of national RH implementing partners and the Area Project Coordinators and assist in the technical review of the quarterly work and financial plans to track progress in the achievement of outputs and address problems and bottlenecks.
7. Assist the UNFPA Programme Officer for RH and DOH in the review, development and improvement of RH training modules, protocols, frameworks and RH monitoring tools.
8. Serve as resource person or trainor during capacity building activities
9. Prepare and submit monthly performance reports to the Programme Manager on the technical assistance activities undertaken for the provinces and municipalities vis-à-vis the comprehensive technical assistance plan.
10. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative or the Programme Manager.

Qualifications:

Must be a Doctor of Medicine and must have at least five to seven years of solid technical experience, whether in service delivery, IEC, training or research, in the areas of family planning, maternal health, STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and management and adolescent reproductive health, among other RH elements.
Must possess excellent conceptual and analytical skills, strategic thinking and results orientation
Must have very good interpersonal and communication (oral and written) skills
Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint, and internet applications
Preferably a resident of Mindanao
Willing to travel to conflict-affected areas and be based in Davao.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
P.O. Box 7285 DAPO
1300 Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Or through emailat officemail@unfpa.org.ph

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 11 February 2005 (Only short-listed applicants will be notified).

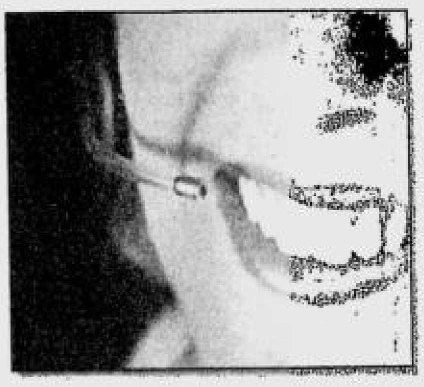
SVI
CONNECT

BE PART OF THE MOST ESTABLISHED OUTBOUND CALL CENTER IN THE COUNTRY!

We are hiring dynamic individuals for our US- and UK-based clients:

CONTACT CENTER AGENTS (Ref. Code: CCA)
- *Possesses excellent English communication skills*
- *Very confident, aggressive, enthusiastic, assertive and self- motivated*
- *Highly personable and has strong work ethics*
- *Willing to work in shifting schedules*
- *College graduate of any bachelor's degree*

TRAINING MANAGER
(Ref. Code: TRNG MGR)
- *With at least 2 years experience in training at a managerial / supervisory capacity in call center operations, customer relations and/or sales*



OFF SHORE CLIENT PROGRAMMING SUPERVISOR (Ref. Code: PROG SUP)
- *Supervises the Off Shore programmers who coordinate, write and maintain client scripts, reports and software necessary as they relate to the needs of our clients*
- *Earned a Bachelor's degree from a reputable university; or two to four years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience*
- *Must have two years appropriate supervisory/ management experience of a team of programmers or a team of IT production/maintenance personnel*
- *Must be comfortable with the following scripting and programming languages; Visual Basic, Dbase, Visual Dbase, FoxPro, Excel, MS Access, SQL and UNIX*
- *Willing to work during the graveyard shift*

HR MANAGER (Ref. Code: HR MGR)
- *With at least 2 years experience in human resource management at a managerial / supervisory capacity in call center operations, customer relations and/or sales*
- *Must be knowledgeable in all aspects of human resource management*

SVI CONNECT CORPORATION

5th Floor The Orient Square, F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
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Hortaleza
Salon

JOIN

Be part of our growing company that nurtures strong values for mutual success. We are looking for highly motivated / dependable professionals to join our company in our expansion program.

ACCOUNTING HEAD
M/F, 28-35 years old, must be CPA with minimum of five (5) years working experience. Computer Literate. Excellent Communication, Interpersonal and leadership skills. With good moral character.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Male, at least 23 yrs. old, w/ at least 2 yrs. experience in related job. Graduate of B.S.C. in Accounting & computer literate. Dedicated self-motivated and result-oriented.

WAREHOUSE MANAGER
Male, at least 23 years old, college graduate. With at least 1 year experience as Warehouse Manager. Must be honest, hardworking and with leadership ability.

TRAINOR/TEACHER
M/F, 30-40 yrs old. well-rounded in the Salon Business. Must have knowledge in basic haircutting & hair-coloring Can communicate well in English and Tagalog. Willing to work long hrs., personable and very enthusiastic Can relate well with all types of personality.

HRD OFFICER (2)
Female, at least 28 years old, w/ 2-3 yrs. min experience as Personnel Officer. Graduate of B.S Psychology or 4 years Business course. Computer Literate and can work with minimum supervision.

Applicants may apply and bring their resumé
with 2x2 ID picture:
15 Brgy. Dann Bakal, Shaw Blvd,
Mandaluyong City.
Tel. Nos. 531-6241 / 531-2892

COMPOSITE
GROUP OF
COMPANIES

EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF IMPORTED CONFECTIONERY BRANDS SUCH AS TOBLERONE, NESTLÉ, FERRERO & VAN HOUTE

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
- Male / Female 25-32 years old
- At least 2 years experience selling to supermarkets
- Highly initiative and can work effectively with minimal supervision
- Good communication skills and computer literate
- Results-oriented and can work well with peers.
- Applicants for Cebu base also accepted

MARKETING STAFF
- Female, 23-32 years old
- With experience in marketing-related position (trade marketing background an advantage).
- Knowledgeable in planning and implementation of projects
- Good oral and written communication skills. Computer literate

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- Female, 21-25 years old
- BSBA graduate
- Computer literate
- Organized and can easily follow instructions
- Fookien-speaking an advantage
- With or without experience

CONTACT: 8123601 TO 03
BRING RESUMé, 1X1 PICTURE & CERT. OF EMPLOYMENT

URGENT HIRING!

Joint Companies Central Lumber Corp. (Cebu), a 50 yr construction supply company and McAlpines Ltd (New Zealand), one of the largest sawmilling group in NZ is in need of:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
- Male, with pleasing personality
- Single, at least 25 years old
- Sales experience would be an advantage
- Graduate of any Bachelors Degree
- Dynamic, Enthusiastic & Energetic
- Having a driver's license is an advantage.

TELEMARKETER
- Female, with pleasing personality
- Fluent in English and Tagalog
- Single, at least 22 years old
- Experience in Telemarketing is an advantage
- Graduate of any Bachelors Degree
- Organized, computer literate (word, excel)

Submit application w/ 2x2 ID, resumé and TOR to Armourwood office UNIT 1208, City and Land Megaplaza, corner ADB Avenue and Garnet Road before Feb 4, 2005

GARMENT FACTORY HAS JOB OPENINGS FOR

SEWERS / PROMOS / PRODUCTION / OFFICE / DRIVERS / CONSULTANTS / MARKETING / TRAINING MANAGERS

281 J.P. Rizal St., Project 4, Quezon City
Apply Monday – Saturday, 1 p.m.

DISTRIBUTOR OF CHOCOLATE, BAKING & CONFECTIONARY INGREDIENTS

IS IN NEED OF:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male, between 24 to 29 years old
- College graduate, height 5' 5"
- Good communication skills
- Preferably Marketing or Com Arts graduate
- Experience in selling is an advantage
- Salary plus commission
- Opportunity to train abroad (Singapore & France)
- Willing to cover provincial accounts
- Preferably can speak Visaya

WAREHOUSE CHECKER

- Male, 29-34 years old
- At least 2 years experience in warehouse supervision

Please bring Transcript of Records, ID and Resumé. Apply at:

Sonlie International, Inc.
2652 Taft Avenue, Pasay City
Tel. No. 831-5917

An export garment manufacturing company of established brand names

NEEDS THE FOLLOWING

HRD MANAGER

- M/F, graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course. Masteral degree a definite advantage
- With at least 5 yrs. managerial experience in HR functions such as recruitment, benefits and compensation and with extensive knowledge in labor and employee relations.
- Highly organized, result-oriented, computer literate and possesses excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Preferably has experience working in garments manufacturing setup

QA/QC MANAGER

- M/F, graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 5 yrs. managerial experience in the field of Quality Assurance and Quality Control system/activities, well versed in quality conformance and preventive/corrective action preferably in garment manufacturing setup
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

PRODUCTION MANAGER

- M/F, preferably graduate of Industrial Eng'g or related course
- With at least 10-15 yrs. production management experience gained in garment firm
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation especially in wovens
- Strong leadership skills, strategic thinker and highly analytical
- High tolerance for stress and can work long hours
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

ASST. PRODUCTION MGR.

- M/F, preferably graduate of Industrial Eng'g or related course
- With at least 5-10 yrs. production management experience gained in garment firm
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation especially in wovens
- Good team player, strategic thinker and highly analytical
- High tolerance for stress and can work long hours
- Effective communication skills, both in oral and written

MERCHANDISING MGR.

- Female, preferably graduate of Fashion Design or related course.
- At least 10 years experience handling said position
- Knowledge in sourcing and product development, costing, consumption
- Proactive and result oriented
- Computer literate and effective oral/written communication skills
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

MERCHANDISER

- Female, preferably graduate of Fashion Design or related course.
- At least 3 years experience gained in garment firm
- Knowledge in sourcing and product development, costing, consumption
- Computer literate and effective oral/written communication skills
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

PATTERN MAKER

- At least 5 years experience as pattern maker in garment firm
- Technically adept of Lectra system
- Preferably knows how to understand technical specifications
- Knowledge in product development, shrinkage, grading, etc.
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

SAMPLE MAKER

- At least 5 years experience as sample maker
- Preferably knows how to understand technical specifications
- Technically adept in cut and sew operation with solid experience in all phases of garment operation
- Can construct sample pants, jackets, etc.
- Hardworking and can work under pressure

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent photo and credentials to:

ARTIF & CO. PHIL. INC.
NII Compound, Poblacion, Noveleta, Cavite 4105
c/o Lei Andavias
Tel # (046) 438-7245 to 48; (02) 529-8997
Fax # (046) 438-2188; (02) 529-8996
Email: hrd_artif@artif.com.ph

PRINCIPALIA MANAGEMENT AND PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS, INC:
needs skilled and competent individuals to be part of its roster of efficient & trained personnel

Recruitment Managers
At least 1 year experience in a local or overseas recruitment agency in a supervisory capacity; preferably w/ solid background in recruiting I.T. personnel

HR Consultants
At least 22 years old and with 1 year experience in recruiting applicants for local or overseas employment; experience in recruiting I.T. professionals is a must

Secretaries/Receptionists
Should be adept in performing various administrative and secretarial functions

Admin Assistants/Teachers
With at least 1 year teaching experience and adept in performing clerical and administrative tasks

Candidates must be at least a graduate of any 4-year course, proficient in using MS Office and the Internet and with above average English communication skills.

Submit your resume with 2 pcs 2 x 2 picture and a photocopy of your transcript of records to:

4/F MG Bldg., 150 Amorsolo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel.# 815-1070/77/20 ext.101
E-mail: hrd@principalia.com
www.principalia.com

MARKETING PERSONNEL
- Male or Female
- Graduate of any 4 yrs. Course Marketing major is an advantage.
- Not more than 30 yrs. Old

DELIVERY PERSONNEL
- Male, not more than 30 yrs. Old
- At least High School Graduate
- Knowledge in driving is an advantage.

APPLY IN PERSON. BIODATA WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY & BRING RECENT 2 X 2 PICTURE AT:
> TRINITY MARKETING, INC.
> 496 NUEVA ST., BINONDO, MANILA
> TEL.# (02)-301-0909

A Company in the business of advertising photography is in need of an

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Graduate of any business or communication course, preferably from UP, AdMU, DLSU, UST.

- Female, 21-26 years old, of good moral character
- Must be presentable, pleasantly assertive, quick to understand,, energetic with a dynamic personality
- Must be proficient in both oral and written English
- Must be computer literate with knowledge of MS Office.
- Those with at least one (1) year experience in advertising (agency, clients or suppliers side) preferred.

Interested applicants are requested to fax resumé to 724-6009 or email at accountexec@indigoentertainment.com.ph

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

- Mech. Engineering Graduate
- Computer Literate
- With drafting skills
- With good communication skills

We offer a very attractive compensation scheme base on qualifications

Please send your resumé & picture to:

HRD Department
De Leon Bldg., 1650 A. Francisco St.,
San Andres Bukid, Manila.
Tel. No. 561-2078/562-2703

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
Polymetallic Mining Project

RRPI is developing a poly-metallic processing plant and 10MW power station on Rapu-Rapu island, via Legaspi, and will require a skilled maintenance workforce. Accommodation and messing is provided free of charge whilst you are on site.

The following skilled maintenance personnel are invited to submit their CV's as expressions of interest in becoming part of the maintenance crew:

PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEER
PROCESS CONTROL ENGINEER - TRAINEE
MAINTENANCE DATA CLERK

General Requirements:
- Experienced with maintenance of Mining / Processing or Heavy Industrial plant & equipment.
- A positive self motivated attitude and desire to be a team member.
- Total commitment to comply with safe working procedures.

Specific Requirements:
1. The successful Process Control Engineer shall have extensive experience with maintenance of SCADA control systems (CITEC software & Allen-Bradley PLC) and associated digital & analog field devices.
2. The successful Process Control Engineer – Trainee shall have a recognised electrical engineering diploma / degree.
3. The Maintenance Data Clerk shall have proficient computer skills including with MS Office & MS Project software.

Applications shall include the following;
- A recent passport size photo.
- Complete personal details including contact telephone number & email.
- Previous work experience and history.
- Up to date references with current contact details.

Applications close 14th February 2005 to;

The Manager – Engineering
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
PO Box 36,
Legaspi, Albay

KUWAIT AIRWAYS

A prestigious airline **KUWAIT AIRWAYS CORPORATION** in **Kuwait** with **POEA Accre.No. 72147** is inviting applicants for the position of:

GROUND STEWARDESS

Minimum Qualifications:
☐ Graduate of any (4) year course or Degree holder
☐ Female; At least 5'2" in height
☐ Age- 22-30 years old ; Enthusiastic and with pleasing personality
☐ Fluency and proficiency in English language is a must.
☐ With at least one (1) year experience in similar position or two (2) years experience in travel agency, call center handling air travel and other related industry are also encouraged to apply.

Terms and conditions of employment to be discussed during interview. Please apply in person with pertinent credentials (i.e. detailed resume, passport copy, school records, employment / training certificates and 2-pcs 2X2 ID photos)

EASTGATE MANPOWER CONSULTANTS, INC.
3/F Rm. 301-302 Eastgate Centre Building
169 EDSA, Mandaluyong City (near Polymedic General Hospital)
Tel no. 533-6101 loc. 216 Email: emci_job@eastgategroup.com. ph

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
LICENSE NO. POEA-527-LB-042304-R

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Electronics, Marketing and any other business related course
- Computer literate
- With experience in selling Dect phones and office equipment
- Fast learner/to handle dealer sales network
- Not more than 30 years old

Apply in person to:
OLYMPIA PHILIPPINES, INC.
1402-1408 Pres. Quirino Ave. cor South Super Highway
Paco Manila

We are a fast growing IT company with international operations. We are currently expanding and need young, dynamic, highly qualified individuals for the following positions:

CONTROLLER

- Responsible for establishing accounting policies and practices for the company; maintaining fiscal records; collection, consolidation and preparation of financial reports and analysis
- Certified Public Accountant; minimum 5 years professional experience, 3 years in similar capacity from a reputable company, multinational experience preferred.

TAX ACCOUNTANT

- Responsible for preparation of all tax dues, documents and tax remittances particularly on VAT, withholding tax and final tax
- Certified Public Accountant preferred

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) DELIVERY SERVICES MANAGER

- Responsible for independent testing of all ICT related projects and endeavors (Test Management, Service Level Management and Vendor Management, Availability and Capability Management, ICT Service Continuity Management and ICT Finance)
- Degree on Computer Engineering or Computer Science or related Engineering course; with relevant experience in an IT operations environment

PROJECT OFFICER

- Will assist Project Manager in establishing Methodologies and Standards; and to facilitate and create project documentation
- Must have good IT background, knowledge in systems integration preferred
- Usability and QA background is a plus

IT CUSTODIAN

- Responsible for the equipment and materials inventory of the IT Department
- Experience in Purchasing and knowledge in IT a plus; must be highly organized

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP OFFICER

- Responsible for managing existing relationships with all sponsors; and sourcing new sponsors for all media vehicles
- Minimum (2) years experience in selling media (TV/radio/print/outdoor) ad space

HR SPECIALIST/EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICER

- Will assist HR Manager in Employee Relations activities and Recruitment
- Minimum (3) years experience in similar position

TRAINING OFFICER

- Responsible for delivery of Training and Development programs as well as long term Organizational Development
- Must have minimum 2 years experience in similar capacity in a fast-paced environment

KOREAN INTERPRETER

- Must be proficient in English and Korean languages, written and oral
- Has the maturity to interface with top executives
- IT knowledge required

This is a great opportunity for young professionals (not more than 35 years of age) to join a global-class IT company. Highly competitive remuneration packages including bonuses and essential benefits await the successful candidates.

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT. Please email your comprehensive resumés not later than Friday, February 5, 2005 to:

rpsearch@i-next.net and hrd1116@yahoo.com
(ATTN: CDA)

Century Park Hotel

Is in need of

1 – SOUS CHEF (COFFEE SHOP KITCHEN)
1 – SOUS CHEF (UNSUI [JAPANESE] KITCHEN)

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Seven (7) years experience, preferably in a hotel of international standards
- Strong leadership
- Innovative
- Cost oriented
- Proficient in fine dining
- Ability to handle personnel
- Good communication skills
- Personable and neat

2 – ACCOUNT MANAGERS (SALES & MARKETING)

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- At least 5'2" tall
- College graduate preferably in Hotel & Restaurant Management or Marketing
- Minimum of two (2) years experience in Sales
- Personable, aggressive and charming
- Verbal and written communication is a must
- Good exposure in local and foreign market
- Willing to work long hours

1 – ACCOUNT MANAGER (BANQUET)

- Female, not more than 28 years old
- College graduate preferably in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- At least two (2) years experience in hotel of international standards
- Facility in verbal and written communication
- Personable and aggressive with good salesmanship
- Service-oriented, keen attention to fine details
- Knowledge of the hotel facilities and service standards
- Knowledge of food and beverage, proper service techniques and function room decorations is a must

1 – (MANDARIN speaking) GUEST SERVICE AGENT
1 – GUEST SERVICE AGENT

- Female, not more than 28 years old
- At least 5'4" tall
- College graduate preferably Bachelor of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Proficiency in oral and written Mandarin communication is a must
- Proficiency in oral and written English communication is a must
- Ability to use Fidelio system is an advantage
- Ability to relate with different people

1 – BELL SERVICE SUPERVISOR

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- At least 5'8" tall
- College graduate preferably in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- With four (4) years work experience in a hotel
- Verbal and written facility is a must
- With good leadership ability
- Personable, neat and attractive

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PERSONALLY THEIR RESUMÉ WITH A RECENT 2x2 COLORED PHOTO AND CERTIFICATES IF ANY, AT:

599 P. Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila
or P.O. Box 117 C.P.O. Manila

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STI National Job Placement Week

February 7-11, 2005

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Join and get a chance to land your dream job with the biggest companies in the Philippines. Plus more! Learn how to succeed in your chosen career and realize your dreams. Absolutely FREE! By joining the National Job Placement Week, STI will teach you how to:

- **Write resumes that get results ***
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Message from
Monico Jacob, STI CEO/President
in his challenge to all STIers

A special treat exclusively for all STI alumni!

Get a chance to win 1 of 20 USB flash drives (128MB) by filling up this coupon and bringing it to the event so you can join in the raffle. *(Raffle Draw - March 1, 2005 at STI HQ)*

Full Name: ________________
Year / Month of Graduation: ________________
Program / Course: ________________
STI Branch: ________________
Validated by: ________________

* for graduating students only

STI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

I-CARES
www.i-cares.com

E2E System

Children are at the heart of everything we do

Plan International, Inc. (known as Plan), is an International humanitarian child-centred development organization without religious, political, or governmental affiliation. Plan seeks to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries. The organization operates worldwide in 45 developing countries and has been in the Philippines since 1961.

We are currently looking for a highly competent and committed persons for the following senior positions:

SPONSORSHIP & GRANTS SUPPORT MANAGER (SGSM)

Job Function: To achieve the country goals in growth, customer satisfaction, grant and establish effective working link with National Organizations. To develop capacities among Plan staff, partners & communities in building relationship between people of different cultures.

Major Responsibilities:

- Facilitates the design of sponsorship and grants related sections of the Country Strategic Plan
- Manage partnership with various donors and partners
- Establish, implement and monitor accountability standards of effectiveness & efficiency to achieve sponsorship and grant related country goals
- Network with other Plan countries and with other organizations to incorporate best practices and learning into country operations
- Manage corporate sponsorship and grants transactions
- Manage and develop SGSM Unit staff
- Participates in the country management team

Qualifications and Requirements

- Degree in Management, Social Sciences, Development Studies with in-depth knowledge and experience in dealing with child poverty
- 5 year leadership experience in development work
- Strong experience in sponsorship and grants writing &reporting is preferable
- Proven track record in working in partnership
- Must be a Child's Rights advocate
- Excellent written and verbal communications to effectively deal with a widely diverse audience
- A team player who can work well in a multi cultural environment
- Proven ability to lead change efforts
- Skillful in Information System and Technology
- Willing to travel 60% of time

PROGRAM SUPPORT MANAGER (PSM)

Job Function: To develop capacities in program design, implementation and evaluation among Plan staff and program participants, and to support the achievement of country program goals that are aligned with Plan's Domains and Principles.

Major Responsibilities:

- Facilitates the design of program related sections of the Country Strategic Plan.
- Documents and disseminates Plan best practices from within Plan and from other organization to promote quality and learning
- Supports program unit staff in program design and implementation, ensuring technical support is provided
- Facilitates the establishment and implementation of standards of accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in achievement of Plan's Domains and Principles
- Manages and supports in country operations networks for learning and improvement
- Manages and develops program support unit staff
- Participates on the country management team

Qualifications and Requirements

- Advance degree in Economics, Management, Social Sciences, Development Studies with in-depth knowledge and experience in dealing with child poverty
- 7 years in managing integrated community development project
- Possess strong program development skills
- Must be a Child's Rights advocate
- Excellent written and verbal communications to effectively deal with a widely diverse audience
- A team player who can work well in a multi cultural environment
- Proven ability to lead change efforts
- Competence in supervising and managing staff
- Significant experience in Information Technology
- Willing to travel 60% of time

Women are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants are requested to submit to the address below letter of application with two references (not relatives), their address and contact numbers and comprehensive resume in hard copy not later than January 31, 2005. Only short listed applicants will be notified.

HR Manager
Plan Philippines
2nd Floor CJV Bldg., 108 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

"Our policies and procedures always ensure that the welfare of children comes first"

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atec AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY (PHIL.), INC. *an* INFINITI SOLUTIONS COMPANY Infiniti Solutions

Automated Technology (Phil.) Inc., a global semiconductor company based in Cabuyao, Laguna, needs topnotch professionals with appropriate semicon experience to fill the requirements of our growing organization.

CENTRAL TEST OPERATIONS MANAGERS

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 3 yrs. recent experience in managing a semiconductor test manufacturing operations.
- Good knowledge of various semiconductor testers/handlers equipment configurations & capability.
- Familiar with quality and test equipment total productive maintenance programs.
- Preferably with product engineering background.

DEVELOPMENT/PROCESS ENGINEERS

- Preferably BSME, BSEE, BSECE graduate.
- With at least 3 yrs. experience in FOL/EOL operations in package and process development of PDIP/SOIC/SOT or COB/SMT, Multichip/Hybrids or Saw Filter assembly and process; Proficiency in APQP/PRAP, SPC, FMEA, DOE, 8D, QCP, PSM.

TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ENGINEERS

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 4 yrs. experience in semicon; knowledgeable in FOL (Ball Attach/Reflow/Clean & Tape & Reel)/ EOL (Trim For Singulation/PackagesSawing/TrayLoading/Scanning/Packaging/FVI). Proficient in Failure Analysis, FMEA, DOE and SPC Analysis.

DESIGN ENGINEERS

- Graduate of any Engineering course.
- Knowledgeable in designing/drawing of lead frame or substrate in accordance to die design and JEDEC requirement; also in reviewing customer design requirement and translate company standard.
- Preferably with semicon experience as Design Engineer; Autocad expert.

TECHNICAL TRAINING ENGINEERS

- Graduate of any Engineering course.
- With at least 3 yrs. experience in conducting technical training (i.e. SPC/DOE/PSM/FMEA etc. or quality functions in a semicon company
- Proficient presentation skills; oral and written communications.

WIREBOND ENGINEERS

- Graduate of any Engineering course.
- With at least 4 yrs. experience in process engineering and maintenance.
- Must be knowledgeable in SPC, FMEA, DOE and Problem-Solving Methodology.

F/L MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

- Graduate of Electronics Technology
- With at least 2-3 yrs. experience in FOL;Good exposure on Saw, Die Attach, Wirebond machines.

B/E MAINTENACE TECHNICIANS

- Graduate of Electronics Technology.
- With at least 2-3 yrs. experience in B/E Station, Mold, DTFS, Mark (ink/ laser);Knowledgeable in ASM Automold is an advantage.

COMPANY NURSES

- Must be a board passer/ with professional license.
- Preferably knows how to drive.

Our company offers competitive compensation and benefits. Mail resume' to ATEC-HRD Main Avenue corner Hologram Street LIGHT INDUSTRY & SCIENCE PARK of the PHILIPPINES I (LISPP I), Bo.Diezmo Cabuyao, Laguna or email to rparadina@atecphil.com or ptaguibulos@atecphil.com and or you may call at (049) 543-0333 loc. 203 look for Rhea Paradina or Phina Franco.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

SECRETARY

- Female, single
- Must be 21 to 27 years old
- 2 years experience an advantage
- Computer literate, proficient in English
- Willing to stay-in

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Male/Female, single preferably
- Must be 25 to 30 years old
- With experience in sales & marketing
- Computer literate, proficient in English

For more information, please call (02) 926-1883 and look for Sonia

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NURSE/PHARMACIST/STOCK ANALYST

A health benefits management company is in need of professionals with the following qualifications:

☐ Male or Female, a registered professional, not less than 5'2" in height, not more than 28 years of age;
☐ Has at least one (1) year experience in clinical or hospital work;
☐ Possess a pleasing personality, a good communication & interpersonal skills;
☐ Must be computer literate.

Interested physicians may send or apply personally with the following credentials: detailed resumé with 2x2 picture, photocopy of board certificate & transcript of records. Please address applications to:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM, INC.
Unit 305 3rd Level EDSA Central Pavilion, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 631-85-01 Local: 7139 or 634-5714

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER

For Interior Design Office

Qualifications:

- Accounting or Business Administration Graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Proficient in Excel and Word
- With minimum 3 years experience in Accounting position

Please fax resumé to 894-47-07

MEGA EXCHANGE

SALES ASSOCIATE

☐ Female/Single/below 25 years old
☐ At least 2nd year College
☐ Must be proficient in English
☐ Enthusiastic and of good character
☐ Pleasing personality

Apply personally (3:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday) at 4th Floor, CyberZone, SM Megamall Building B, Mandaluyong City. Tel. No. 6332011. Look for Louella Balbiran

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005
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JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SM

If you want your career to go places, join our branch and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder.

For SAN LAZARO, SUCAT, STA. ROSA and MALL OF ASIA

OPERATIONS GROUP

BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course; with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity; with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills; able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales and Marketing Strategies; has a proven track record in sales and service

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

not over 35 years old; graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead a group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service; with pleasing personality

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male, must be 5'5 1/2" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work on extended hours

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:

✓ excellent communication skills (both verbal and written form)
✓ can relate well with all levels of the organization
✓ proficient in computer software applications
✓ team player, goal oriented and able to work well under pressure
✓ willing to grow with the organization
✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course; with 2 to 5 years experience in all facets of personnel management in the same capacity such as specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration, recruitment and labor relations; must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization; with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; team-player, goal oriented and able to work under pressure; must be computer literate

TREASURY MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions; familiar with banking operations & Central Bank procedures

ACCOUNTING MANAGER / OFFICER

must be a Certified Public Accountant; female, not over 35 years old; with 2 to 5 years of managerial experience in all accounting operations; has the ability to work in a fast paced environment; with strong computer skills and skills to oversee and manage monthly and quarterly budget and vacancies analysis

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COORDINATOR

graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in advertising; with good communication and coordinating skills; with high initiative and enable to poster creative solutions to support operations sales; must be computer literate

ENGINEER

*** Mechanical * Civil * Electrical**
not over 30 years old; preferably licensed; with 1 year work experience in construction projects or mall operations

DESIGN OFFICER

not over 28 years old; graduate of Architecture; preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AutoCADD application; with 1 year work experience in site inspection and supervision; proficient in drafting, designing and estimates

DISPLAY OFFICER

graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course; with at least 1 year related experience in retail, design or fashion is preferred; current knowledge of RTW, Mens and Home Fashions is a plus; strong organization, planning, and prioritizing skills; flexible to be scheduled in support of reil hours

TRAINING OFFICER / TRAINER

not over 32 years old; graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course; with 2 years related work experience; knowledgeable in conducting training needs analysis, designing, implementing and evaluating of training programs and activities related to behavior and skill modification of employees

NURSE

not over 32 years old; must be a Registered Nurse; with 2 years experience in industrial or hospital setup; able to establish rapport and deal with all levels of the organization; willing to work on shift schedules or extended hours

IT ASSOCIATE

not over 28 years old; graduate of Computer Science / Engineering; with 1 to 2 years experience in repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)
not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number / SSS Employment History printout and photocopy and original copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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Setting **GLOBAL** standards in **RECRUITMENT** and **TRAINING** for customer service professionals.

NIKKOSHI PHILIPPINES CORP.

SENIOR PRODUCT ENGINEER

- Engineering Graduate
- At least 26-35 years old.
- Experienced and knowledgeable in precision machining processes.
- Able to read engineering drawings/designs.
- Programming knowledge in CNC machining centers, lathe machines.
- Know how to operate (CMM) Coordinate Measuring Machine.
- Knowledgeable in electronics, mechanical concepts and analysis, manufacturing procedures, product and process engineering tools.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Excellent Communication Skills – written and oral.
- Able to communicate in Japanese Language will be an advantage.
- With at least five (5) years related experience in a manufacturing company.
- Can work under pressure.
- Strong leadership skills, competent and team worker.

SENIOR QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEER

- Engineering Graduate
- At least 30-35 years old.
- With ample experience on ISO Accreditation.
- Can handle Supplier/Customer management related activities.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Know how to operate (CMM) Coordinate Measuring Machine.
- Knowledge in (SPC) Statistical Process Control, (FMEA) Failure Mode and Effect Analysis, and other related principles and concepts.
- Excellent Communication Skills – written and oral.
- Able to communicate in Japanese Language will be an advantage.
- With at least five (5) years of Quality Control supervisory or related experience in a manufacturing company.
- Goal-driven, dependable and loyal.

Qualified applicants may apply personally together with their comprehensive Curriculum Vitae (CV), a recent two colored 2x2 ID picture and other credentials to:

HRD Department
Nikkoshi Philippines Corporation
First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP)
Brgy. Sta. Anastacia, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Or e-mail resume in TEXT form (**Strictly no attachments**), with the applied position stated in the subject line to:

hrd@nikkoshi.com.ph

Stores Specialists, Inc.

Exclusive franchisee for some of the finest international names in fashion like Gucci, Prada, Philippe Charriol, Salvatore Ferragamo, Burberry, Kate Spade, Tod's, Armani Exchange, Lacoste, Calvin Klein, Nine West, Polo Ralph Lauren, Bass, Bally, Anne Klein, Kenneth Cole, DKNY, Diesel, Coach, Beauty Bar, Lush, Make Room and more

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals:

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-29 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- With at least six (6) months work experience preferably in the same/related field
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

- Female; between 24-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least two (2) years related experience
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS/ SALES SUPERVISORS

- Between 25-35 years old; at least 5'2" in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines.

40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the Philippines in: community-based natural resource management, gender & development , peacebuilding, including informal education particularly with enterprise development.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Area Manager (PAM) to implement, supervise, and manage the various components of its peace building work in Northwestern Mindanao. The PAM will be concurrently responsible for the implementation of an EU-funded VSO PEACE Mindanao project.

VSOP's peace building programme revolves around three interrelated and vital components : enhancing understanding and social interaction between Muslims and Christians, building economic resilience among internally displaced peoples and communities, and psycho-social intervention and support to victims of trauma caused by conflict and displacement.

The VSOP peace building PAM will be directly engaged in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and local and national government units in peace building service delivery; in strengthening the accountability of public institutions (executive, legislative, and judicial) and powerful groups such as media, academe, churches, and the corporate sector to the rights of IDPs; and in promoting the welfare and aspirations of IDPs to other development organizations and institutions, both local and international.

Responsibilities of the PAM post include :

1. Implementing the various components of the peace building programme area plan of VSO Philippines, including managing the EU funded PEACE Mindanao peace building project;
2. Managing the human, material, and financial resources of the PEACE Mindanao project;
3. Leading in volunteer administration and support; and,
4. Maintaining and developing the wider VSOP programme

To manage the aforementioned responsibilities the successful candidate should possess the following qualities :

1. A critical and institutional analysis and approach to development issues (previous scholarship on conflict, displaced people and communities, and peace and development issues is an advantage);
2. Demonstrable ability and experience in motivating and managing people;
3. Sensitivity to gender and development issues;
4. A willingness to integrate with poor communities and work with people of various ethnic, religious, political, and occupational backgrounds;
5. Very good writing and presentation skills;
6. Skills in project development, monitoring and evaluation;
7. Strong networking, bargaining, and negotiation skills;
8. Some skills in liaising and dealing with media, and some experience in policy advocacy campaigns;
9. Willingness to work with a team .
10. Strong sense of humor;
11. Knowledge or willingness to learn how to drive a car, and/or motorcycle; and,
12. Knowledge or willingness to learn the local language.

You will be responsible to the Country Director, VSO Philippines, and part of your duties will be to line-manage three other staffpersons. You will be based in Iligan City, Northern Mindanao. Successful applicant must be in post no later than April 15, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO webpage: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines/Peace_building_PAM.html

CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must answer an electronic VSOP application form available at www.geocities.com/vsophilippines/Peace_building_PAM.html All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling 6-8 sentences) for each of the 12 qualities earlier identified, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Deadline for submission : 16.00 hrs, FEBRUARY 21, 2005
Interview Date : March 9, 2005

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

Mega Magazines & Publications, Inc., the country's premiere style source – from fashion, lifestyle, beauty, home, architectural designs & food, is looking for:

Advertising Account Executive

Requirements:

1. At least one year sales experience, preferably in an advertising agency
2. 20-27 years old, with pleasing personality.
3. A degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Advertising or any related course

Librarian

Requirements:

1. Has excellent grades in Library Science or any related course of a reputable school
2. Has excellent command of the English Language
3. Must be computer savvy
4. Must be talented, artistic, hardworking and disciplined
5. Must be able to set – up and maintain the library
6. Must be able to create a database of the library

Art Director

Requirements:

1. A graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising or any related course of a reputable school
2. Knowledgeable in Quark Express, Freehand, and Adobe Photoshop
3. Knowledgeable in color separation
4. With background in Photo Art Direction
5. Preferably MAC – based

Graphic Artist

Requirements:

1. A graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising or any related course of a reputable school
2. Knowledgeable in Quark Express, Freehand, and Adobe Photoshop

Brand Associate

Requirements:

1. 25 – 35 years old
2. At least 3 years or experience in the field of Marketing/Brand Management
3. A degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Advertising or any related course or any equivalent experience in the same field

Fashion & Beauty Associate

Requirements:

1. 25 – 35 years old
2. Stylish and updated with the latest fashion & beauty trends
3. With writing skills

Interested applicants may send and/or e-mail their comprehensive curriculum vitaé, cover letter and recent 2x2 photo to:

Jennifer Jean J. Virgino
Human Resources Manager
Mega Magazines & Publications, Inc.
18th Floor Strata 100 Building
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Email: hr_mmpi@yahoo.com

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sportshouse

is in need of a team of dynamic and aggressive individuals for the following positions:

Store Supervisor / Sales Demo / Cashier

Store Supervisor :
Male : at least 5'6" and College Graduate
Female : at least 5'3" and College Graduate

Sales Demo :
Male : at least 5'6" and 3rd year college level
Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Cashier : experience is an advantage
Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Please send your resumé with 2 x 2 picture at:

Sportshouse Training Department
c/o LINO's Restaurant, 3rd Floor,
Ali Mall, Cubao Quezon City

Previous applicants need not apply. We will only reply to qualified applicants.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

An importer and exclusive distributor of several tire and motor oil brand and interior finishes offers a competitive package to qualified applicants for the following

SALES OFFICERS / REPRESENTATIVES

- Male or Female, 21-32 yrs. old
- College graduate
- With productive experience in selling consumer items
- Honest, hardworking and with excellent communication skills
- Must have a valid driver's license

APPLICANTS MUST SEND THEIR RESUMÉS WITH TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS and 2X2 PICTURE TO:

TASCO, INC.
No. 70 20th Avenue, Project 4, Quezon City
Phone Nos. 9130102 to 04
e-mail address: frb_tasco@pacific.net.ph

FEMALE OFFICE STAFF

For Sales and Marketing of Subdivision and Housing Projects

- Preferably with work experience in real estate sales
- Single, 25years old up, with pleasing personality

Send resume/police clearance to:
Homeowners Development Corporation
154 Katipunan Avenue, St. Ignatius Village, QC
Tel. 912-7731 or 911-2696

ACCOUNTANT

- B.S. Accountancy graduate, male/female
- With 3 yrs. work experience in bookkeeping, cost/ general acctg.
- Must possess managerial skills in all aspect of accounting operation.
- Analytical and results oriented.

Send or E-mail application letter and resumé with a recent passport size picture to:

I.O.S. *Marketing Corporation*
646 P. Paterno St., Quiapo, Manila E-mail: iosmc@yahoo.com

BEAUX IDEAL EXPORT
International Corporation
is in need of an

ARTIST DESIGNER

Qualifications:

- Must have experience in handicraft
- Creative
- Open-minded

Call Ms. Faye Cayabyab at 8213773

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Submit Resumé and NBI Clearance at:
6F VALERO TOWER CONDOMINIUM
VALERO ST., LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI
(back of PBCOM Tower)
Look for Jenny Morales or Paul Clemente

ATTENTION:

MLM LEADERS

International MLM Company is looking for **DYNAMIC, MOTIVATED, LEADERS** who will be responsible for the expansion of their fast growing MLM business in the Philippines. If you are the **ONE**, call **(02) 637-1562**. Limited TOP positions are offered. Interview period will be from February 01 to February 03, 2005 Only.

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3. CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS
4. GENERAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS W/ M.A.
5. COMPUTER INSTRUCTORS / TECHNICIANS EXPERIENCED IN LINUX
6. ACCOUNTING STAFF, PAYROLL ASSISTANT W/ AT LEAST 2 YRS. RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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Please send resume with accompanying TOR, Diploma for undergraduates and Masteral Degree Holders, PRC License, 2x2 picture with yellow background, application to:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
GLOBAL CITY INNOVATIVE COLLEGE
3rd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st cor. 2nd Ave.,
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Tel. No. : 757-55-88/818-09-45 to 46
Website: www.gcic.ph Email: gcic@mydestiny.net
TXT 0918-9247810

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Administrative-cum-Finance Assistant for the UNFPA Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the technical guidance of the UNFPA Administrative-cum-Finance Assistant and the immediate supervision of the Programme Manager, the PMO Administrative –cum-Finance Assistant will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Assists the Programme Manager in developing and operationalizing the manual of operations, setting up systems and procedures for the Programme Management Office (PMO) based on UNFPA rules and regulations.
2. Handles all correspondence and communications of the Programme Management Office. Properly labels and files all documents, personnel records, reports, letters, etc. Takes notes and sends out official communications. Takes and makes official calls.
3. Attends to PMO office needs and supervises the Driver/Messenger.
4. Conducts and maintains an updated inventory of office vehicles, equipment and supplies.
5. Handles all financial transactions of the PMO. Prepares purchase requests for approval of the Programme Manager. Procures equipment and supplies based on UNFPA rules and regulations and sets up an efficient distribution system.
6. Arranges for the conduct of the office audit.
7. Provides technical assistance to the provincial AFAs in Mindanao, orienting and assisting them in the implementation of UNFPA administrative and financial rules and regulations.
8. Monitors the financial transactions in the provinces on a regular basis.
9. Reviews all financial forms and reports submitted by the Mindanao provinces and municipalities on a quarterly basis for completeness, accuracy and consistency and consolidates them for submission to UNFPA Finance in Manila.
10. Serves as rapporteur and disburses and liquidate funds for PMO-organized meetings and activities.
11. Performs other tasks that may be assigned by the UNFPA AFA or the Programme Manager.

Qualifications:
Must be a graduate of business administration, accounting or HR related courses., preferably a CPA.
Must have at least 5 years experience in accounting and finance, administration and human resource management, working with foreign-assisted projects.
Familiarity with UNFPA rules and procedures will be an asset.
Must be proficient in MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and internet applications
Demonstrates and promotes teamwork, integrity and impartiality in all matters affecting his/her work.
Preferably a resident of Mindanao
Willing to travel to conflict-affected areas and be based in Davao.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
P.O. Box 7285 DAPO
1300 Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila
Or through email at officemail@unfpa.org.ph

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 11 February 2005 (Only short-listed applicants will be notified).

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This is a rare opportunity to join a well established company that offers several advantages such as:

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- **Strong Diversified Culture**
- **Employee Savings plan**

All applicants must possess STCW'95 CERTIFICATES and ENDORSEMENTS, RELEVANT TANKER (Oil, Product, LPG, LNG) Experience, VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. Engineers with STEAM TURBINE Experience will be an advantage.

If you are looking for a challenging career that offers superior benefits, long term employment and professional development, please apply in writing, in person or by email to:

C/E DANTE LOMIGUEN or MR. WILLIE BELAGUAS
PHILIPPINE TRANSMARINE CARRIERS, INC
CHEVRONTEXACO Manning
6/F, First Maritime Place Bldg.
7458 Bagtican Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
Tel No.: 8981264 or 8981143
Email: Dante.Lomiguen@Stena.com

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), one of Canon's largest Product R&D center in the world, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. We seek to recruit engineers and other positions for our current and future projects. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities await qualified employees. Attractive compensation packages offered.

Software Engineers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, and Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts

Quality Assurance Engineers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for conducting software testing, test planning, and test scripting
- Must have strong computer operation skills especially in various Microsoft Windows platforms and applications
- Contract positions also available

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resume with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resume and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

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We are a medium-sized Commercial Bank that belongs to the top 20 in the Banking Industry.

We are in search of Candidates who are highly competent and top performers in the banking industry and other related industries.

We provide competitive compensation package and fast-track career path to Candidates who have the track record of meeting Key Performance Indicators and exceeding Key Performance Targets.

The job opportunities are as follows:

1. Branch Heads (Angeles/Binondo/Malolos/Shaw Boulevard/other area in Metro Manila; Luzon; Bacolod/Cebu/Iligan/Iloilo; Cagayan De Oro/ Davao/General Santos/Zamboanga)

- Has proven track record in terms of business performance (i.e., deposit generation, profitability, accounts acquisition & maintenance) with the rank of at least a Manager
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Effective leader
- A sound decision-maker
- Preferably male

2. Customer Relations Officers – Branches (Metro Manila; Luzon; Bacolod/Cebu/Iligan/Iloilo; Cagayan De Oro/Davao/General Santos/ Zamboanga

- Has proven track record in selling and cross-selling of products and services, with the rank of at least a Junior Officer
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Effective supervisor
- Preferably male

3. Account Officers – Lending (Binondo/Makati)

- Has proven track record in terms of business performance (i.e., loan volume, quality of loan portfolio, accounts acquisition & consolidation) with the rank of at least an Assistant Manager
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Preferably male

4. Marketing Officers – Treasury (Binondo/Makati)

- With at least 2 years work experience as Money Market Dealer or Marketing Officer in a financial institution
- With work experience in Private Banking (an advantage)
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written (Chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Preferably male

5. Senior Credit Reviewer – Credit Policy & Support (Makati)

- Has at least 2 years work experience as a Credit Reviewer in a Commercial Bank with the rank of at least an Junior Assistant Manager
- Highly analytical and strong attention to detail
- Proficient in communication, both oral & written
- Preferably male

6. Selection and Placement Officer – Human Resources (Makati)

- Has at least 1 year work experience on Selection and Placement with the rank of at least a Junior Assistant Manager (exposure in Banking, an advantage)
- Customer service excellence oriented
- Highly proficient in communication, both oral & written
- Highly trainable on the other facets of Human Resources
- Preferably male, not more than 30 years old

If you are the Candidate that we are looking for, make the right move. Send your comprehensive Resume at career_mv@yahoo.com not later than February 07, 2005.

We also provide job opportunities for college graduates batch 2004, with the following qualifications:

- Proficient in communication, both oral & written (chinese speaking, an advantage)
- Represent the top 30% in class
- Willing to be assigned in Branches or Head Office (Makati)
- Highly trainable
- Preferably male

If interested, send your resume at first_jb@yahoo.com not later than February 7, 2005.

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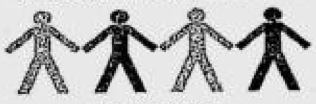

OUR MISSION
To excel, around the world, at helping our clients and their people succeed together

HEWITT ASSOCIATES (NYSE:HEW) is a global human resources outsourcing and consulting firm delivering a complete range of human capital management services to companies including HR and Benefits Outsourcing, HR Strategy and Technology, Organizational Change, Retirement and Financial Management, and Talent and Reward Strategies.

Our associates have been instrumental in developing innovative solutions that have helped our clients become some of the most successful companies in the world. Today, our client roster includes more that half of FORTUNE 500® companies and more than a third of FORTUNE Global 500 companies.

As the largest multi-service HR delivery provider in the world, we handle more than 54 million HR related customer interactions a year from more than 17 million participants.

We are looking for associates in the field of Human Resources Outsourcing who will be responsible for partnering with clients in evaluating, migrating and implementing effective HR Outsourcing solutions.

Role 1 : HR Outsourcing Operations Lead – The Philippines

This role is a highly leveraged one which necessitates demonstrating a depth of technical expertise in area of Payroll, Benefits and other forms of HR Outsourcing. The incumbent will be responsible for identifying and winning significant client opportunities in the area of HR Outsourcing, primarily Payroll and Benefits administration in the Philippines and will carry a revenue target. The incumbent will provide clients with expert technical strategy and insight. Additionally he/she will act as a strong project leader for large, complex client assignments and will be responsible for generating a significant portion of business revenue and, in addition to delivering quality work, are expected to contribute thought, client and people leadership. This role is based in Manila but will entail international and local travel on an as needed basis.

The ideal candidate will have experience in some or all of these areas : Human Resources Operations, HR Outsourcing, IT Outsourcing, Project Management, Business Development

Role 2 : HR Outsourcing Delivery Manager

The HR Outsourcing Delivery Manager will be responsible for partnering with specific clients in migrating and implementing effective Payroll and Benefits administration solutions. Once the systems are in place, this role will also supervise ongoing delivery on a recurring basis. This role is a supervisory role and will entail managing a team of people working at the client site. This role is based in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The ideal candidate will have experience in some or all of these areas : Human Resources Operations, Payroll and Benefits Administration, Project Management

Role 3 : IT Support, Lead

Will be responsible for providing technical support for desktop and laptop users in the Manila office. Will also be providing 1st level technical support for the office's Network equipment (i.e. Network Switches, Router, Firewall, etc), Compaq/HP Servers used as File & Print server, Lotus Notes, and ARCServe Server. The associate will engage in technical resolution of issues encountered by end users of the above mentioned IT Equipment. At times this person will be required to provide support to other offices in South East Asia and/or Australia.

The ideal candidate will have 5-6+ years of experience in the field of IT Support with working knowledge of MS Windows 2000/2003 servers, HP printer support, MS Office suite, Lotus Notes, Novell Netware.

To Apply:

Please send application and full resume by email to: **K Search Asia Consulting Inc, c/o Ruby Barcelona, 22/F 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St. , Salcedo Village, Makati City**
Or
Email to **rubib@ksearchasia.com** or Fax to **8936259**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified

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DATA ANALYST

Qualifications:

- ➢ University graduate major in Mathematics, Statistics or related course, with at least 2 years experience in data analysis
- ➢ Fluency in English conversation
- ➢ Computer literate
- ➢ Hardworking, responsible, and work independent

Qualified applicants are requested to send immediately their comprehensive resumé with recent photo, documents & expected salary to:

INTER-PAC, INC.
4/F ALCO Bldg., 391 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
1209 Makati City
or E-mail: Olivia@theinterpac.com

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Pre-school Teachers
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(Areas: English, Filipino, Sibika and Hekasi)

and

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The applicant must be:

- a graduate of relevant education course (i.e., Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education if the applicant is applying for Pre-School and Grade School teaching position, or Bachelor of Science in Education if the applicant is applying for High School teaching position, or Bachelor of Education in Library Science if the applicant is applying for the position of licensed librarian);
- a licensed professional teacher
- dynamic , hardworking and willing to grow with the organization.

Teaching experience is an advantage. Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resume, 4 2x2 photos, photocopy of the transcript of records, service record (if available), certificate of good moral character and a letter of application addressed to:

The School Principal
C.P.O. Box 3956

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acer

Acer, one of the top and leading PC vendor in the Philippines is inviting experienced, people-oriented and top caliber professional to fill in the position of:

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- male with at least 2-3 years experience in doing pre-sales activities for IT products, technical support and product training

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- male, with at least 1 year experience in doing marketing functions, e.g. events / roadshows
- with ability to write articles and / or press releases
- with a degree in Communication Arts or its equivalent

We are looking for applicants who are:

- graduates from reputable universities
- flexible, pro-active, goal-oriented, highly motivated
- excellent communication skills

Interested applicants must submit their resume with recent 2x2 colored ID photo not later than *February 4, 2005* at the following addresses:

Acer Philippines, Inc.
Human Resource Department
Unit 3401, 34th Floor, PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Ave., cor. Herrera St.,1226 Makati City,
Or e-mail: cecille_mauri@acer.com.ph

We want you to be a part of our family!

1. **Project Manager**
2. **Project Engineer**
   - Licensed CE
3. **Research & Dev't Engineer**
4. **QC Engineer**
   - Graduate of Architecture or any Engineering Course
5. **Cost Engineer**
   - Any Engineering Course

Note: For positions 1-5, we prioritize those with experience in high-rise building

6. **Ads & Promo Officer (Tiangge Event Organizer)**
   - College graduate with at least 2 years work related experience preferably in retail/mall operations
   - Can communicate & conceptualize effective marketing strategies, plans & programs
7. **Marketing Officers (for hotel/resort, condotel & tiangge)**
   - With good marketing contacts
   - Salary commensurate to qualifications
   - At least 2 years experience
8. **Administrative Assistant**
   - Female/Male, with experience in office administration & property management
   - Technical background an advantage
9. **Programmer**
   - At least 3 years experience preferably in hotel/resort industry, realty and mall operations
   - With working knowledge in VB NET
10. **Front Office Clerks**
    - Male/Female, with excellent in communication skills & pleasing personality

Please send resumé with ID picture to:

ASB Center at 114 Benavidez St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
or call 893-4249 or e-mail to: asb hrd@yahoo.com

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LICENSED CHEMIST

Qualification:

- Extensive experience in laboratory setting from a manufacturing plant of veterinary products.
- Preferably below 30 years old
- Computer literate
- Able to work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned at Angono, Rizal

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person and must bring their resumé (with 2x2 picture) and transcript of records. Schedule of interview will be on February 1 to 4 & 8 to 11, 2005 between 9am to 3 pm at:

Unit 1009 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas
Pasig City

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PA / RESEARCHER

For our Market Executive (Asean Region)
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Qualifications:

- ➢ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ➢ Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- ➢ Systematic, hardworking and have good moral character
- ➢ Can work with less supervision, long hours and under pressure

Interested applicants must submit their 2-page CV with 2x2 picture, stating current/expected salary to:

James@TempleBarInt.com
or
Fax: +44 1753 651616

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For additional information, please visit www.spssph.com. Successful candidate is assured of a competitive compensation/benefits package. Qualified applicants should submit their comprehensive resumes with contact phone numbers and 2x2 photos thru e-mail careers@spss-ph.com / nora_nolasco@spss-ph.com

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- Accounting Personnel
- System Analysts
- System / Network Administrator
- Database Administrator
- Web Programmers (ASP, ASP.net, JAVA)
- Web Developers
- Computer Engr. / Technicians
- Art Director (with Graphic Studio or Agency experience)
- Graphic Designers
- Copy Writers
- Computer Secretaries
- Receptionists
- IT / Computer Trainors

Qualifications:

- *Degree in Information Technology or any computer studies, or any course relevant to the position applied for.*
- *Fulltime and can work overtime*
- *Masters degree is a plus for managerial position.*

Submit your resume at:

7373 Bakawan Street, San Antonio Village
Makati City, Philippines 1200
Tel nos. (632) 893 - 9984, 893 - 7844
email : jps@go2ph.net

1st IT CENTER

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

VACANT POSITION FOR DSWD – KALAHI-CIDSS:KKB Project

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Qualification Standards:

- Bachelor's degree in any Social Science course or related discipline, preferably with Masters Degree
- With minimum 2 years experience on Monitoring & Evaluation, preferably of foreign-assisted projects
- Can write project reports, and possesses good verbal,and written communication skills
- Skilled in computer software operation, such as, word processing, spreadsheet, and database software applications
- Can provide skills enhancement training for M&E staff of the Field Offices

❖ *Monthly Salary:* Twenty-one Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Nine Pesos only (Php. 21,469.00) under MOA arrangement.

Community Development Officer

Qualification Standards:

- Bachelor's degree in any Social Science course or related discipline, preferably with Masters Degree
- With minimum 2 years experience on Community Development, preferably of foreign-assisted projects
- Can write project reports, and possesses good verbal and written communications skills
- Skilled in computer software operation, such as, word processing, spreadsheet, and database software applications
- Can provide skills enhancement training for Area Coordination Teams of the Field Offices

❖ *Monthly Salary:* Twenty -three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Pesos and Seventy-five centavos only (Php. 23,985.75) under MOA arrangement

Junior Infrastructure Engineer

Qualification Standards:

- Licensed Engineer
- With minimum 4 years experience on rural community infrastructure implementation, preferably of foreign-assisted projects
- Can write project reports, and possesses good verbal and written communication skills
- Skilled in computer software operation, such as, word processing, spreadsheet, and database software applications
- Can provide skills enhancement training for Area Coordination Teams of the Field Offices, particularly to the Deputy Area Coordinators

❖ *Monthly Salary:* Twenty Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Pesos and Seventy-five centavos only (Php. 23,985.75) under MOA arrangement

Senior Bookkeeper

Qualification Standards:

Accounting Graduate
With at least 1 year related experience
Proficient in MS Applications

❖ *Monthly Salary:* Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Pesos Only (Php. 11,511.00) under MOA arrangement

Note: ***Pls. submit your Letter of Application and Resume to Ms. Janis / Shirley of CPDD or Mr. Sagid of KALAHI-CIDSS on or before February 4, 2005.***

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KKC,Inc. 7/F M.E.C. Bldg., Leviste cor. Rufino Sts.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

The USAID-funded PRISM project is recruiting for the positions listed here below. All positions are based in the Philippines and employment will be given on a one-year contract subject to renewal. PRISM is a project that aims to mobilize private sector involvement in the provision of family planning products and services.

Policy Specialist. Mid-level professional with work experience on policy interventions addressing population and family planning issues. Applicant with an adequate and clear understanding of the policy development process at the company level in the business and pharmaceutical sectors and of regulatory policies of government that influence integration of FP services in the private practice of medical professionals is preferred.

Workplace Manager for Mindanao. Mid-level professional with experience in implementing workplace programs. Residents of Davao are preferred. Applicant should be willing to work with different partner agencies and business associations. The Workplace Manager will be responsible for supporting the implementation of workplace component activities in Mindanao.

Business Development Specialist. Mid-level professional with experience in the development and implementation of strategic business development plans and programs. Applicant should have a good knowledge of the Philippine healthcare industry.

Grants Assistant. Junior-level professional with at least 3 years experience in sub-contracting and grants-making process, namely pre-solicitation, solicitation, review and selection, pre-award, award, and post-award stages. Applicant with knowledge and understanding of USAID procurement regulations and policies is preferred.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 4th of February 2005.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ASSISTANT MANAGERS

NEEDED FOR METRO MANILA, VISAYAS, AND MINDANAO

- MALE / FEMALE, 25 YEARS AND ABOVE
- PREFERENCE GIVEN TO GRADUATES OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OR RELATED COURSES
- AT LEAST 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN MARKETING AND SALES MANAGEMENT
- HARDWORKING, ORGANIZED, RESULT-ORIENTED
- ADEPT WITH DATA, ANALYTICAL, EXCELLENT IN WRITING & ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- WILLING AND ABLE TO TRAVEL TO DO FIELD WORK

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY FORWARD THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH 2X2 COLORED ID PICTURE, A COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS, NBI/POLICE CLEARANCE AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO:

ONE PHILIPPINE SILVER CORPORATION
RM 804 GLOBE TELECOM PLAZA I
PIONEER STREET, MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. NO.: (02) 637-0964 OR (02) 636-1434

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FIESTA BRANDS INC,

One of the world's leading manufacturers of processed coconut products and one of the Top 500 Corporations in the Philippines is in need of a personnel for immediate employment.

MARKETING MANAGER

The Marketing Manager will be responsible for formulating marketing policies, plans and programs for the company's new products. He / She will also monitor, evaluate, direct and coordinate the implementation of these programs and plans.

The candidate should be able to:

- ✓ Prepare marketing plans and targets, pricing policies and advertising and promotions programs for the company's products
- ✓ Oversee and coordinate the implementation of such programs
- ✓ Perform product management and distribution management functions
- ✓ Handle export house accounts
- ✓ Oversee and direct marketing services functions such as making recommendations for and preparing marketing collaterals and packaging designs
- ✓ Oversee and direct the market research function
- ✓ Supervise the administration work within the marketing and business development group

Qualifications:

- ✓ A graduate of BS Busines Administration or Marketing, BS Industrial Engineering or related course; preferably male, an MBA degree will be a plus
- ✓ Have worked as a Product Manager or Marketing Manager in a food or beverage company for at least 5 years (experience in exports is a must)
- ✓ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ✓ Good organizational and analytical skills
- ✓ Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- ✓ A team player

The **Administrative Manager**
FIESTA BRANDS INC.
1052 EDSA Magallanes Village, Makati City 1232
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A leading pre-need company is in need of ***brokers, general agents and agencies*** for its expansion plans in 2005. All interested parties are requested to submit Letter of Intent together with credentials on or before February 12, 2005 in PO Box 3606 CPO.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE PART OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT. WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES WHO CAN MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SENIOR RETAIL OPERATIONS MANAGER

Male/Female, between 35 to 40 years old; graduate of any four-year course, an MBA unit/degree is an advantage; must have a minimum of 5 years managerial experience from a related field in a senior management level position. The candidate should have strong leadership qualities and the ability to relate and communicate well with all levels in the organization. The candidates will be tasked to handle the sales operations of all the branches of the company; ability to generate and execute long range and short term plans is required.

DEPARTMENT STORE/SUPERMARKET MANAGERS

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old; graduate of any four-year course; with at least 2 years managerial experience gained from a service-oriented establishment. Can conceptualize and implement strategies to achieve sales target; with strong leadership qualities and outstanding communication skills.

BUYERS/MERCHANDISERS

Female, not more than 35 years old; graduate of any four-year course; with at least a year of related experience from a reputable Department Store or Supermarket establishment; adept with the latest trends in the market; can do forecasting, prepare buying plans and negotiate with suppliers; outstanding communication skills; can work long hours and withstand pressure.

BRANCH PERSONNEL OFFICERS

Female, between 28 to 35 years old; BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate; with at least 3 years managerial exposure in personnel administration covering areas of policy formulation, recruitment and selection, records keeping, timekeeping, job analysis and evaluation, benefits and salary administration; results-oriented and good communication skills.

STORE/WAREHOUSE/SUPERMARKET SUPERVISORS

Male/Female, not more than 35 years old; graduate of any four-year course; with at least a year of related experience gained from a retail or food establishment; with strong leadership qualities and outstanding communication skills.

ENGINEERING & FACILITIES SUPERVISORS

Male, not more than 35 years old; graduate of Mechanical/Electrical or Civil Engineering course with license; with at least a year of adequate experience in handling centralized air-conditioning system, wiring installation and trouble-shooting of controls; with strong leadership qualities and highly analytical.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Female, single, not more than 25 years old; graduate of any four-year business course from a reputable school. Performance driven and result-oriented; can work with minimum supervision; excellent communication skills; with or without work experience; proficiency in Chinese language is an advantage.

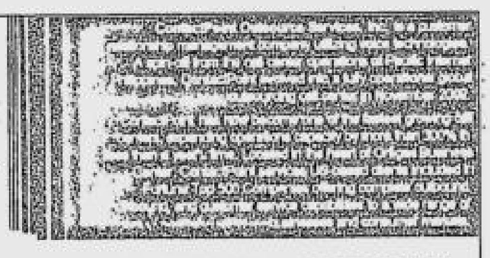
AUDIT/ACCOUNTING STAFF

Male/Female, single, not more than 25 years old; preferably Certified Public Accountant; work experience in the same capacity is an advantage; can work with minimum supervision; analytical and result-oriented; excellent communication skills.

Interested parties may apply in person at all Isetann Department Store branches from Monday to Friday, or send their comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 photo to :

ISETANN DEPARTMENT STORE, INC.
Human Resources Division
600 Carriedo St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

CONTACT POINT
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel No. 910-5181 to 84 | Fax No. 9105175



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HEAD - (PDI-ITH)

THE JOB

- Plans, administers and reviews acquisition, development, maintenance and use of computer, telecommunications systems and network infrastructure
- Works out current and future IT needs by consulting with people at all levels about the current work systems and deciding how improvements could be made
- Analyzes the information needs of the company and develop technological solutions to satisfy those needs
- Prepares or directs IT policy and plan strategy development
- Directs activities to select and install major IT facilities
- Oversees the provision of training for users and clients
- Directs the integration of IT operations, computer hardware, operating systems, communications, software applications and data processing
- Works out priorities for systems developments, maintenance and operations
- Controls the security aspects of IT systems

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum years of experience on the following areas:
    - Applications Development – 3 years
    - Data Center Management – 3 years
    - Project Management – 2 years
- With adequate experience in database administration, network administration, business recovery planning, systems and methods documentation, vendor management.
- With strong people management and conflict resolution skills

Please indicate Job Code on your application letter or e-mail to facilitate processing of your application.

Interested applicants may send or e-mail us at:
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
jobs_cp@pacific.net.ph | Fax No. 9105175

You may also visit or call us at www.contactpoint.bz or 910-5181 to 84

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101 Esteban cor Dela Rosa,
Legaspi Village
Tel 815-1307 ♦ 893-3326

How to work toward your goals

By Dr. Tony Alessandra

(Continued from last week)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

NOW that you know the rules for setting goals, you can apply them to the goals you set for yourself. Here's an explanation of each of the areas you need to complete while working toward your goals.

Define your goal. Your first task is to determine whether your goal meets all the requirements of the rules discussed in the first part of this article. If it does, then write it as clearly as possible at the top of the worksheet.

Examine obstacles that stand in your way. This is a time to guard against negative assumptions and other self-defeating thoughts. Remember the definition of realistic. An obstacle blocks you only if you let it. You should also write down your innovative ways of overcoming obstacles.

W.I.I.F.M.—What's in it for me? Why do you want to achieve the goal? What kind of payoff is motivating you?

Plan your action. You need to carefully list the steps you will take, which will bring you closer to your goal. The smaller the increments, the easier they will be to accomplish. There is a German proverb that says, " He who begins too much accomplishes little." As the American Dental Association is fond of saying, "Don't bite off more than you can chew."

Project a target date for your goal. State your deadline range, such as, "between March 15 and April 1st." Think carefully about the amount of time you need. Too little time will increase the pressure and frustrate you. Too much time may reduce your drive.

Know how you'll measure your success. Goals should be described in terms of the final outcome of an activity rather than as the activity. This is part of being specific. Instead of saying "I will be running more in four to six months," you could say "I'll be running three miles instead of two miles in four to six months." How will you measure this? Probably by having one-third more blisters on your feet.

Visualizing

Visualization is an indispensable tool in helping people attain their goals. Olympic athletes have proven that visualization is an effective substitute for real practice. In visualizing your goals, you will live your accomplishments in your mind's eye. The more of the five senses you can involve in this exercise, the greater your chances are of accomplishment.

Let's say, for example, that you want to be the Salesperson of the Year in your company. You know that each year an awards banquet is given during which a plaque is presented to the year's sales leader. You may choose to focus on this banquet for your visualization exercise. Here's what you do:

Make yourself comfortable, close your eyes, and relax. Slowly and systematically go through all of the five senses. Imagine what you would be experiencing at the banquet.

Sight. Imagine what you would see there. You'd see other salespeople and their spouses. Imagine what they are wearing. You'd see tables decorated and waiters scurrying about. You'd see the bar and people standing around talking. Keep going for several minutes.

Sound. What would you hear? You'd hear the chatter of people. You would hear laughter, the tinkling of glasses, and music from a band, people talking. You would also continually hear people coming up to congratulate you. Imagine that.

Smell. Imagine all the smells you'd experience. Women's perfume, food, alcohol, men's cologne, the smell of polyester suits (not yours, of course).

Feel. What would your tactile sensations be? You'd feel people rubbing up against you in the crowded room. You'd feel others shaking your hand.

Taste. Taste in your mind the champagne you'll be drinking. Taste the food you'll be eating. Experience the sweet taste of success! In advance!

Most importantly, imagine the exhilaration you'll feel when your name is called to receive the award! Take your time during this exercise and enjoy it. The more you can "visually" attend this banquet the more motivated you will become. (You might even learn something about the catering business!)

Visualization file

To aid in your visualization exercise, you might want to start a visualization file. This is an envelope or file into which you put pictures, clippings, letters, and other reminders of what it will be like to succeed. Your file should also contain letters or awards that you have received in the past. Anything that makes you feel good about yourself can be included in the file. It can then be used as a source of motivation and inspiration, especially if you begin to feel a little down or demotivated. We all need to be reminded of our past accomplishments once in a while. Be your own best friend—remind yourself!

Role models

Many people concentrate only on the goal they wish to attain. There's more to the picture. Successful people in every field have certain character traits in common. These common traits do not occur by chance, they are an integral part of goal attainment. It is worth your time to analyze the constructive characteristics of people who are now where you'd like to be.

One effective method is to choose role models. These are people to look up to and emulate. Your choices can include people who are dead or living as long as you are familiar with their personalities and accomplishments.

In choosing a role model, several things must be kept in mind:

1. **Keep them off the pedestal.** There is no doubt that you will choose people whom you see as being "above" you because of what they have accomplished. That's good. What isn't good is to put them on a pedestal, thereby making them larger than life. We are all human. We all have strengths and weaknesses. You must not lose this perspective on people. Putting them on pedestals only further separates you from them.

2. **Isolate their strong points.** You need to look at the person you wish to emulate and analyze the precise qualities he or she possesses which you need to acquire. Sit down and write out the characteristics that seem to encourage their success. Use concrete examples of their behaviors that you can adapt to our own situation.

3. **Remain yourself.** Quite often the tendency when admiring someone is to try to become his clone. People who seem to "have it all together" have done all the "work" for you. All you have to do is imitate them. This is a dangerous way to think because you are not working on your own personality.

In the final analysis, you are you. It is impossible to become exactly like someone else. And why should you want to? So remain yourself while you acquire new traits to help you achieve your goals.

The thought diet

The thought diet, developed by my friend and colleague Jim Cathcart, is a tool that you can use on a daily basis to help you become the person who will achieve your goals. It breaks down goals into daily actions that are bite-size and easy to do. By showing you the steps along the way, the thought diet will keep you from being overwhelmed by your lofty goals.

On your thought diet card, write out the "minimum daily standards" which you will perform every day to move you closer to your goal. Be specific.

The following are some examples of minimum daily standards:

- Mental: I will spend 15 minutes every evening doing visualization exercises.
- Physical: I will do at least five push-ups and ten sit-ups every morning.
- Professional: I will read something related to my career for at least 15 minutes before going to bed.
- Financial: I will keep a complete record of every expense and financial transaction.
- Spiritual: Each day I will do a good deed to help someone less fortunate than I.
- Family: I will relax over dinner and enjoy a meaningful uninterrupted conversation with my family.
- Social: I will take time during my coffee breaks in the office to chat with coworkers.

Read the thought diet card twice a day until everything becomes a habit. Once you've developed constructive habits, you can move on to new goals and behaviors. Fill out a new card and practice the new challenges every day until they become habits. In this way, you will painlessly move closer and closer to your goals.

The dividends reaped by investing in yourself are unlike any other found in the financial world. When you clarify your values and set goals in all the major areas of your life—mental, physical, family, social, spiritual, professional, and financial—the right roads appear in front of you like mirages in the desert, yet they are real. Choices become infinitely easier to make because you are aiming at something specific, and you've taken a giant step toward hitting your goals, with amazing accuracy.

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May iba ka bang gustong gawin sa buhay mo?

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OPTIMUS INNOVATIONS, INC.
DZRH

A project of the
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Optimus Innovations
and Manila Broadcasting Company.

Sumali na sa
My TRABAHO

A Public Service Program to Help
Jobseekers and People at Work
Find Their Dream Jobs

Tune in to **My Trabaho at DZRH** today at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 666 on your AM radio dial for more information on this program. Or check out **My Trabaho at Job Market** this coming Sunday in Sunday People at Work / Job Market

A. Who are qualified to join:

1. Filipino citizen
2. Graduate of a two-year course, a 4-year college course or higher degrees
3. Physically and mentally fit
4. No police or criminal record
5. Residing in Metro Manila or if provincial resident, can reside in Metro Manila at own expense for the duration of the availment of the benefits
6. Willing to accept terms and conditions of acceptance of benefits

B. Mechanics

1. Send through postal mail or e-mail a letter describing yourself, your strengths and weaknesses, and why you deserve to be selected as a beneficiary of this program, together with a bio-data and one 1X1 photo to

"My Trabaho at Job Market"
Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg.
Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague St.
Makati City
E-mail address: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

2. Regularly, thirty(30) letters will be picked (by drawing at random the letters from a box).
3. These 30 letter senders will be invited to attend a 2-day Career Planning Workshop for free to be conducted by Career Systems, Inc.
4. From these 30 letter senders, ten (10) will be selected by career mentors to be given the following assistance:
   i. Weekly career coaching sessions good for two months by a trained and qualified career mentor
   ii. Two (2) outfits suitable to the targeted job of the applicant
   iii. A makeover by a reputable grooming salon to prepare her / him for his / her first job interview.
   iv. Free attendance in a two-day Resume Preparation/ Interview Seminar
   v. Cash of P5,000 to be used in going to interviews, making letters of application and resumes, photos and other expenses that will be incurred in their job hunt for two months.
5. Announcement of the partial and full beneficiaries shall be done in "My Trabaho at DZRH" which is aired every Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. on 666 on your AM radio dial and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in "My Trabaho at Job Market."
6. Stories on the mentors, sponsors and winners shall be written and published in the "My Trabaho at Job Market" section in the Sunday People at Work / Job Market and featured in "My Trabaho at DZRH."
7. The organizers of this program does not guarantee the beneficiaries any job or employment. It will only provide the benefits listed above as assistance to increase the job seeker's chances in landing his/ her dream job.

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DAVID'S SALON THE BEST IN EUROPEAN HAIRDRESSING

URGENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN SINGAPORE

TATA Consulting Services needs
Japanese or Mandarin Speaking IT professionals
- should have exposure in any of the following: SAP, Java, Oracle Financial, JD Edwards
- to be based in either Taiwan or Japan

R-Systems needs
SAP Consultants & Implementors (All Modules)
Java Programmers
Unix Systems Administrators
IT Auditors
Network Security Administrators

Knowledge Dynamics needs:
Data Warehousing – ETL Consultants
-should have at least 2 years experience in Informatica preferably in a banking environment with at least 5 yrs total IT experience; with exposure to other DW ETL tools are welcome to apply i.e. Cognus, etc.

DQ (SEA) Ltd. needs:
Welding Inspectors
Min "O" level, preferably with 2 -3 yrs relevant experience, with AWS or CSWIP certification
NDT Inspectors/Technicians
With at least 3 years work experience in the same field; with ASNT(ACCP) or PCN level II certification in UT, MT and PT

Total Swimming (Swimming School for expatriates) needs:
Swimming Instructors
-should hold the appropriate certification in swimming instruction; physically fit with excellent communications skills; able to provide. Instructions on the fundamentals of swimming from basic, advanced and competition level

Iyer Group needs:
Auditors
-should be CPA's/Chartered accountants; with at least 3-5 yrs experience working in an auditing environment; preferably working for top auditing firms; with excellent comm skills

Euro International PTE Ltd. needs:
Counter Sales Personnel
- female; should have excellent communications skills and a pleasing personality; w/ experience doing counter sales for fast moving consumer goods

EZY Health (HMO, Medical Publications)
Pathologists
-should be a licensed M.D. w/ exposure in pathology to be assigned in the medical/diagnostic laboratory
Medical Doctors (Aesthetic)
- with sales experience and prepared to travel; attractive and with excellent communications skills
Medical Doctors (For the HMO)
-Should have worked for an HMO; with experience doing post audit on treatments conducted by clinics
Pharmacists
-Should have medical sales background with proven track record in sales; can drive; w/ excellent English comm. skills; can do editorials for medical journals
Governess
- BS Education graduate major in History, geography, Math, Science; with experience tutoring 10 - 15 year olds; trustworthy and dependable; driving knowledge is a plus

House Proud (Dealer of Hallmark, Friends forever, Hello Kitty) needs:
Retail Managers
- should come from the same industry with at least 5 years experience in the same capacity
Shop Managers
- female with a university degree; with at least 3 yrs experience in the same capacity; has supervised at least 2 counter sales staff; should have excellent customer service skills

BMC International Education Group (an adult/high school level educational institution) needs:
Customer Service Staff
-should preferably come from the hospitality industry in a high customer contact environment i.e. hotels, etc.; 24-28 yrs old; preferably single; able to provide guidance to students in terms of career path

Pretty Slim needs:
Outlet Managers
-with at least 5 years experience in the same capacity preferably from slimming companies
Sales Consultants
-female with extensive sales experience; Sales driven presentable and with excellent communications and selling skills
Therapists
-Should preferably come from slimming companies , specialized in massage

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long white folder: resume with full detailed job description, 3 pcs 2x2 picture & photocopy of passport, certificates/license; encoded resume in 3½ floppy diskette in Word format. For proper handling, please indicate the reference no. in your application.

PRINCIPALIA, INC.
4th Flr MG Bldg. 150 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 8151070/77/20 extn. 101 Email : hrd@principalia.com or apply at our website www.principalia.com
POEA-596-LB-061004-R Beware of Illegal Recruiters For Manpower Pooling only No Fees to be collected.

HRM GRADUATE W/ EXPERIENCE & FOOD ATTENDANT
Apply in person at MARIKIT-NA HAPAG KAINAN 102 Mayor Gil Fernando Ave.
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Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals:

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

- Female; at least 24 years old; Pleasing personality
- College graduate from a reputable university within Metro Manila
- With at least one (1) year work experience in advertising - on either the agency's side (accounts or media department) or client's
- Proficient in both oral and written English
- Must be highly organized; with very good administrative skills
- Must be computer literate - Excel, Word and Power Point

INVENTORY CONTROL OFFICER

- Female; Between 25-30 years old; Pleasing personality
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in Accounting work
- Must be proficient in MS Office applications (Excel/Word)
- Must be highly analytical and results-oriented
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2x2 PHOTO TO:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(c/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of

Driver/Messenger for the UNFPA Programme Management Office in Mindanao.

Under the overall supervision and guidance of the Programme Manager and the immediate supervision of the AFA, the Driver/Messenger shall perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Provide efficient and timely transport services to the Programme Manager, Area Coordinators, UNFPA Central Office personnel, AFA and other authorized passengers in Mindanao particularly in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao Sur, Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato.
2. Maintain the good condition of the vehicle and ensure its regular check-up.
3. Address minor vehicle trouble.
4. Accomplish the vehicle daily log.
5. Ensure the security and safety of the passengers and the vehicle. Coordinate with the Security Officer in Mindanao and make sure that the proper travel clearance has been issued immediately prior to the trip. Take all necessary precautions during travel and ensure that vehicle is prepared for any emergency.
6. Deliver/pick-up documents and materials.
7. Extend other support services such as operation of the LCD, camera, video camera, xerox and fax machines, binder, etc.
8. Perform other tasks that may be assigned by the Programme Manager and the AFA.

Qualifications
Must at least be a high school graduate with training in engine mechanic or related fields.
Must have at least five years experience in professional driving, engine maintenance and messengerial work preferably with foreign-assisted projects in Mindanao
Demonstrates teamwork, flexibility, courage and presence of mind.
Preferably a resident of Mindanao
Willing to travel in conflict affected areas and be based in area of assignment.

Applicants are requested to send their application letters indicating post title together with completed UN Personal History Forms (P.11), available at www.unfpa.org.ph/jobs to:

The Country Representative
United Nations Population Fund
P.O. Box 7285 DAPO
1300 Domestic Road
Pasay City, Metro Manila

Or through email at officemail@unfpa.org.ph

Salary: Negotiable based on experience and qualifications

Deadline for submission of applications: 11 February 2005 (Only short-listed applicants will be notified).

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR JOB VACANCIES

Consider a change...Lead the team...Make a difference!

Outstanding developments in the past years led DKT Philippines, Inc. to move to even greater challenges to meaningfully contribute to the achievement of its Mission and Vision. One of the new initiatives is the Franchise undertaking which focuses on creating new markets for contraceptive products through a Franchising system under the Special Programs Department. We invite intelligent, industrious, self-reliant, and dedicated individuals with business development experience to apply for the following positions and become part of the TEAM who will be responsible in building and sustaining business relationship with target clients for Franchising operation.

REGIONAL FRANCHISE COORDINATOR (RFC)

This person will be responsible for achieving target sales output annually and facilitating the development of the contraceptive market in the target territories.

Minimum Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 2 years fieldwork involvement and related Franchising, marketing and sales experience.
- Must have a knowledge of Franchising fundamentals and practices.
- Knowledge of contraceptive technologies and products
- Has strong interpersonal and communication skills
- Must possess a strategic planning and implementation skills, networking and collaboration skills.
- Must know how to drive and possesses a valid driver's license
- Computer literate

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Minimum Qualification:

- The applicant must have good communication skills
- Must have good technical writing skills
- Bachelor's degree and computer literate

Interested candidates may send in their application thru mail or e-mail at:

Attention : Human Resource Department
Suite 801 The Linden Suites
No. 37 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig
E-Mail : hrd@frenzy.com.ph

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☐ With at least 3 years experience as stylist
☐ College level, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

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☐ 20-35 years old
☐ With basic knowledge of color theory and color application
☐ College level, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

3. ASSISTANT SALON MANAGER

☐ 25-35 years old
☐ Willing to be trained
☐ College Graduate, with good communication skills in Filipino and English

5. SALON ASSISTANT

☐ 18-25 years old
☐ Willing to be trained
☐ Salon work experience is an advantage

6. NAIL TECHNICIAN/MANICURIST
7. BOOKKEEPER
8. INVENTORY CLERK

* All positions require willingness to work on weekends and holidays

Interested applicants may send/submit their resumé with photo to
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  Male or Female, 20-30 years old. Graduate/undergraduate of any engineering course. Must have at least work experience as quality assurance engineer for process & product inspection. Preferably has skill in AUTOCAD. Candidates with experience in actual construction are also welcome. Must be willing to do work in extended hours and willing to be assigned in fieldwork.
- **THREE (3) WAREHOUSE CHECKER**
  Male or Female, 20-30 years old, at least college level or a 2-year course grduate. Must be hardworking, honest, responsible and trustworthy. Can work with minimum supervision. Must be willing to do work in extended hours and willing to be assigned in fieldwork.
- **THREE (3) OFFICE STAFF**
  Female, between 22-30 years old, a college graduate. Must be hardworking, honest, responsible, trustworthy and dynamic team player. Has an excellent communication skill with pleasing personality. Must be willing to do work in extended hours.
- **TWO (2) PATTERN MAKER**
  Male, between 23-30 years old, graduate of Pattern Making Technology. Must have work experience in wood & aluminum pattern making.

Interested applicants may call on **(632)-416-9345** (Mon.-Sat. 9:00-11:00 a.m.; 2:00-5:00 p.m. only) or **0921-6531512.** Applicants may also send their resumé with a recent 2x2 photo in MS Word Format to **chiefdidy@yahoo.com** Kindly indicate the position you are applying for.

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ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. (AFI)
A non-stock and non-profit service organization engaged in a diverse range of development programs specifically aimed at uplifting the life of the children

IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF BANTAY KALIKASAN (BK)

(BK is an environmental program of AFI currently engaged in the La Mesa watershed management, clean air campaign and environmental call center operation)

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of a 4-year course; a Masteral degree is an advantage
- With excellent managerial/leadership skills and administrative/organizational abilities
- Has strong background/relevant experience in financial management/resource mobilization
- Has strong marketing capabilities preferably related to media
- Can effectively network/establish linkages with the government and private sectors
- Proficient in oral/written communications; with excellent presentation skills
- Has strong will power and determination to make things happen; must have a track record in manifesting those qualities in challenging/trying situations
- With strong service orientation

Qualified applicants may submit their resume with 2x2 picture to:
The HR DIRECTOR, ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc., Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City
not later than 04 February 2005.
Email: Weng_Mata@abs.pinoycentral.com

Increase work productivity through connectivity

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

NO MATTER what time zone or continent, almost everyone and everything is now just a click away. When you need to know the economic climate in Singapore before making an investment, all you need to do is visit Yahoo Finance. If you badly need to unwind after a head-reeling board meeting, you can check the sites for happy-hour gigs. When you need to work through lunch hour, you can order a Supreme Six with extra cheese through www.magoos.com. With the advent of the Internet, almost anything is possible through cyberspace. More and more people are realizing the benefits of connectivity.

Benefits

Nowadays, the Internet may be one of the most vital tools at work yet surprisingly, quite a number of people are still unaware of the benefits of connectivity. Getting on the "information superhighway" is synonymous to opening the roads to business and opportunities. Encyclopedia salesmen are not too happy with the prospects but with the Internet, who needs the 12-volume heavy bound books that contain dated information? If you need information on the stock market for example, Google, one of the most popular Internet search engines, suggests over 10 million sites for you to look at. "The Internet improves technology and resources necessary to take advantage of information, solve problems, make decisions, communicate, and be at the forefront of the any industry," says Derwin Lim vice president for Pronet Systems, a company that specializes in network systems and cabling infrastructure solutions.

The clamor for real time information has also spurred the growth of the Internet. The timeliness with which information is acquired is an important factor in decision-making and business undertakings. Thus, transporting sensitive data through the old reliable mailman is no longer practical or safe. Why deal with the cumbersome process of packing, sealing and envelope-licking when information can be sent with a click of the button? Indeed, with the Internet, neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow nor dark of the night will keep the e-mail from being delivered.

With the Internet, full-time mothers no longer need complain about not having a life of their own. By being connected, they can form their own businesses and learn new skills. Skills can now be developed and improved online. Working students now have the option to earn their degree through several hours of interactive online classes instead of wasting hours sleeping through a professor's droning lecture. Even the differently abled can look forward to promising careers that were previously denied because of their disability. Indeed, with the Internet, the world is an arm's reach away.

A majority of correspondences are now made via e-mail. This is good news for Greenpeace and every denuded forest in the country. With the advent of the Internet, trees can now breathe easy because businesses are slowly moving into a paperless society. More than connectivity, Internet connection is also a way to minimize the cost of operations. Most companies, especially those with offshore offices, rely on the Internet to communicate with their counterparts abroad. From e-mail, to instant messaging to video conferencing, the Internet offers several options to communicate without the exorbitant cost of long distance calls.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Advertising is no longer limited to print ads. Even private businesses and freelancers can promote themselves through personal web pages that they can create on their own at virtually no cost. Company profiles are no longer given in glossy custom-made folders. Everything you need to know about a corporation or an organization is in a web site. These and countless more benefits are more than enough reason for you to convince your boss that it's time to maximize the use of your business phone lines. There are several ways to get connected. The most popular is either through dial-up or DSL.

Dial-up

Dial-up is defined as a type of remote connection through a modem, an Internet service provider (ISP) and an ordinary phone line. A Pentium CPU, at least 32MB of memory and a 33.600 bps or 56.400 bps modem are the minimum hardware requirements.

Dial-up is for those who like to bring their work at home or for those who telecommute a few days in a month. For users who connect to the Internet for only a couple of hours at a time, dial-up connection may be the best solution. The most practical reason for this option is cost effectiveness. Internet solution packages can be obtained simply through prepaid Internet cards offered by different ISPs. Because of the proliferation of Internet cards, access costs have become increasingly affordable. A P30 prepaid Internet card could buy you up to 5 hours of connection. A P100 card could offer up to 30 hours of connectivity. Some offer several hours free on top of the inclusive hours that come with the package.

However, be careful of prepaid Internet cards that offer up to 16 hours free connection. The excess hours could be an exchange for extremely slow connection. Others offer lower rates or even zero rates during off peak hours. This is perfect for night owls who prefer to work in the wee hours of the morning.

Some of the popular Internet cards are Broline, ISP Bonanza and Pacific Internet E-Volve. Aside from prepaid cards, another option is to subscribe for a postpaid account that will charge you for every minute of use. PLDT Vibe's Pay Per Surf option for example is pre-activated in all post-paid PLDT residential lines so your phone is Internet ready. All you need to do is call 171, their PLDT hotline, for assistance to configure your computer. www.pldtvibe.com also gives step-by-step instructions on how to set up the dialer.

The beauty of a post-paid connection is that you never run of out credits and you never have to add an Internet card in your grocery list. This way, you don't have to worry about being cut off in the middle of an important instant messaging conference or being cut off just when you're about to finish downloading a huge file because you consumed all the credits in your card. Although dial up is much slower than other connections, many people still prefer it because it is relatively cheaper, it is easier to install and it works on almost any residential line.

DSL

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is another method of connecting to the Internet. It offers a speed that is more than twice as fast as dial-up access because it is a dedicated high-bandwidth link to the Internet.

The beauty with DSL is that you can use the Internet without tying up your phone line. Simultaneous Internet and voice and fax capabilities over a single telephone line is possible with DSL. This means that while you're checking e-mail, you can set an appointment over the phone. This is good news for people who have mastered the art of multitasking.

Aside from optimizing resources, DSL also encourages higher productivity because you are always connected as long as your computer is on. This means that you no longer have to spend time connecting, logging in and bearing with that annoying whine while the computer is trying to connect to your ISP. Also, while you're completing a report, resources like online dictionaries and other materials are only a window away.

Then of course, there's the unbeatable argument of speed. DSL offers between 10 to 50 times faster access to the Internet compared to the snail's pace of dial up. What may take you a full minute to download a report could be accessed in the blink of the eye with DSL. It's perfect for downloading multimedia content like audio-visual presentations.

"For tech people like me, one very important advantage of DSL is being able to download very large patches or software updates, in a very short period of time. These patches sometimes reach around 100 megabytes, so imagine downloading that via a 56K modem! This lightens our workload considerably," shares Lim. DSL is also a must for video confe rencing or soft phones. On dial-up connection, audio and video often gets delivered with a few microseconds delay. Games, especially online games, are also best played with a DSL connection. But really, with deadlines waiting, who's got the time?

Different ISPs like PLDT, Globe and Infocom offer different DSL packages. Speed varies depending on the package. PLDT's myDSL offers one of the lowest rates in the business at P1,995 monthly. Aside from the standard modem and software that comes with the package, ISPs also include added benefits like free e-mail addresses and hardware. PLDT for example is offering free computers and printers for their business packages. Your ISP will also take care of the installation.

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- Highly proficient in verbal and written communications
- Must have excellent people skills and a good team player
- Must have working knowledge of MS Office applications
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Application Procedure:
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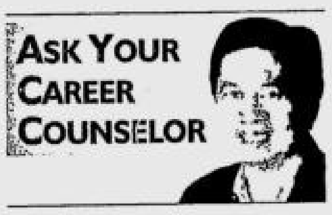
E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'I'm overqualified but not getting anywhere'

By Ernie O. Cecilia



I HAVE a Masters. in Business Administration degree but I'm stuck as an executive assistant for a director of a large conglomerate. My boss is of the old school and does not seem to realize my potential. I am happy with my big paycheck but I feel that I'm overqualified for this job that I've been stuck with for eight years now.

It seems that my career track is narrow. From here, I could be the executive assistant of the COO, then of the CEO. Deep inside, I wish that I could move, but whenever I talk to my boss about it, he thinks that I just want a raise in pay. Sometimes, I want to resign, but I'm afraid that I will not land a managerial job elsewhere since my experience is limited to being an executive assistant.

What should I do to convince my boss to release me to other meaningful jobs? I know I'm overqualified for my job now, but will I qualify for managerial jobs elsewhere? I'm not getting any younger and I want to have a great career. Please advise me.

Ms Overqualified But Stuck

It's nice to hear that you don't have the same problem as the other five million unemployed Filipinos. I am glad that you are concerned about having a great career—not just having a job. You also seem to have ambition—something you need to succeed in the new workplace.

Truly, you seem overqualified for your present job. It also seems that you will not achieve your highest potential in your present job. After eight years in that position, you need to rethink your career options.

Meaning of "meaningful"

You said you want to move to more meaningful jobs or land a managerial job elsewhere. What do you mean by "meaningful"? To some, your present job can be meaningful, but it might not appeal much to you or to others. You have to define for yourself what is meaningful to you. Is a job meaningful when it is in line with your educational preparation? Or when it gives you satisfaction? Or perhaps when it carries great responsibility? Meaning in a job is mostly found in the jobholder. To some, a job becomes meaningful if they can be the best in that job—whether janitorial, managerial or that of the CEO.

When you were working on your MBA, what jobs did you envision doing? As you look around your present conglomerate environment, do you see "meaningful" jobs that you want to do? What competencies are required to succeed in these jobs? Do you possess these competencies? Are you willing to train for skills in these jobs? Is your boss willing to release you to try these other jobs? Are you willing to resign and search elsewhere?

You also seem interested in managerial jobs. What kind of managerial jobs can you qualify for? Remember that managerial jobs require leadership and getting results through other people. Do you have the knack, inclination, training and competence for this type of job? Managerial jobs require a lot of soft skills rather than hard skills.

Getting a great career

Whether in your present company or elsewhere, here are a few things you can do to enhance your chances of having a great career.

1. **Find your passion.** Over the years, observe what makes you tick, what you like to do best, where you are best at, where you contribute most, or where you are most comfortable with—in school, at work, at play. Are you more interested with products or people or processes? This can help you narrow down the playing field where you can most succeed in.

2. **Know what it takes to succeed in your chosen field.** Observe successful people in your field, know their qualities and traits, and study how they got to be the best. Read about them or ask around.

3. Equip yourself. Learn the ropes, acquire the competencies, get the state-of-the-art tools of the trade, dress for success and brace yourself for competition. Be a lifelong learner.

4. Get a coach or mentor. Tiger Woods and Manny Pacquiao need coaching to be the best in their career. Get somebody who can give you a dispassionate feedback and guide you to be your best.

5. Go for the big bucks. Pacquiao will be wasting his talent until he meets big-name boxers. You and your MBA will not amount to much until you get a more challenging job that pays big bucks. There are only two steps to get big bucks—work for somebody willing and able to pay big bucks and get into a job that pays big bucks.

So, rethink your career options now—not when you are over 40 and still an executive assistant.

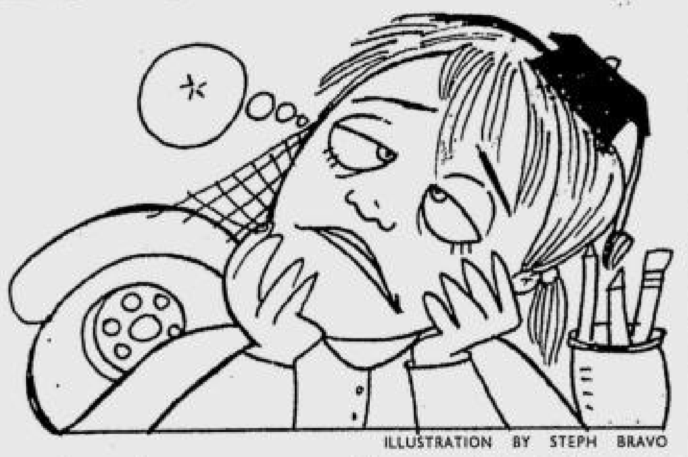


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Career options

Talk with your boss about your career and ask his plans for you. Tell him about your interest to transfer to particular jobs (name them) and get his help to give you training opportunity for other jobs. Perhaps, you don't have to leave your post abruptly—try a short-duration job posting in your desired jobs even as you oversee your temporary replacement to ensure your boss is getting the same service.

If you don't get your organization's support, look around where you can have a greater chance of career success. Before you jump ship, make sure that you have considered the pros and cons of a career shift. While waiting for the right time, take advantage of every opportunity in your present job to learn new skills. Volunteer to do others' jobs, join committees and task forces and attend every learning experience relevant to your desired jobs elsewhere.

However, as you look forward to a great career, never forget that at present you need to create value for your organization. Never be remiss in your job. When you apply for other jobs elsewhere, prospective employers will always want to know how you did in your previous employers. Don't antagonize your boss now, especially if at first he does not relish the idea of losing you to another department or company. To succeed, you need more allies than enemies.

Quote of the week

"Be on the lookout for needed jobs or competencies. Choose jobs that you think will continue to be needed in the future and work hard at developing the competencies that will make you succeed in these jobs. Then set a career goal. If the present employer can offer you the career opportunity, stay with it. If not, find another one ... In fact, my advice to you is very simple: 'Love it or leave it.'" (Cecilia, "How to Keep Your Job," 2000.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ec4u@edsamail.com.ph.*)*

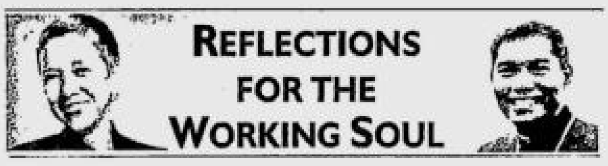
A clean workplace

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A FRIEND of mine shared his frustration when he wrote, "There is a growing sense of powerlessness among many people in the face of corruption which has become systemic and part of the culture. It is a seemingly impossible task to curb it, much less eradicate it." I told him that I think it is not impossible at all to eradicate graft and corruption in our society. I believe that the challenge of Jesus in today's Gospel to be "clean of heart"—to get rid of corruption even from the heart—is a possible way to come up with a "clean society." This possibility can start in the workplace.

Everyone in the workplace can join the crusade against corruption by creating and maintaining a "clean workplace"—where structures, relationships, and processes in the company or business are free from unfair or evil elements. When both management and labor respect and uphold each other's rights and sincerely do their best in their respective duties and responsibilities, truth and justice reign. Honesty and sincerity in the hearts of everyone is the surest antidote against the "virus" of graft and corruption. These, you might say, seem easier said than done.

Our greatest challenge, therefore, is to submit ourselves completely to God, with whom there is nothing impossible, and sincerely ask His forgiveness and His power to free us from our penchant for corrupt deeds. Our faith assures us that God comes to save us, and if we desire it, He can make us "clean of heart." Being cleansed by God, we can "see" and worship Him not only in the sacred places but also in our workplaces. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)



A paradigm shift

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

BEING clean of heart and seeing God are states that seem humanly impossible to attain in the workplace. If you even try to start talking about them at work you'll most likely be mocked: "Hello? This is the 21st century and you're on planet Earth. *Nananaginip ka?* (Are you dreaming?)

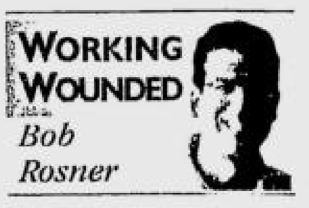
In a workplace where one goes to get the money to feed and clothe oneself, most people would find such thoughts next to useless. Yet, when you examine the persistence of workplace-related problems, you just might realize that they have existed since time began precisely because in doing their jobs, people couldn't care a hoot about cleanness of heart or the sight of God.

Even the darkest hellhole on earth could be transformed into a corner of heaven—all it needs is one clean heart that has seen God and longs for others to experience the same. Think Calcutta before Mother Teresa came. Mother Teresa would not hesitate to embrace those we would not even dare touch because she saw Jesus in each of them. Translate this into a workplace perennially beset with problems. In the workplace, a clean heart would suspend disbelief and see God in each and every coworker; thus all action would be guided by respect, trust and love—dissolving all problems. Strikes, lockouts and such are not about meager wages or bad working conditions. They're all about love—the shortage of the love that rids the heart of selfishness. A purified heart sees God in others and acts accordingly. Perhaps your workplace needs this paradigm shift. Do you have enough love in you to take the first step? (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mt. 5: 1-12
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

How do real people get real jobs?



Bob Rosner

DEAR Readers: J. Paul Getty, the oil tycoon, once said "My formula for success? Rise early, work late, strike oil." Since we can't all strike oil, it's important for each of us to have a personal job hunting strategy. A former University career counselor sent me his four key job-hunting strategies (giving credit to Dick Bolles and Howard Figler). I thought that they were practical and insightful. How do they compare with yours? What do you think the keys to getting a job are today? What advice would you give to someone looking for work today?

Get out and meet people. Successful job hunters make job hunting a social process. They get away from the keyboard and onto the streets. Even shy people learn that there is no substitute for person-to-person contact. The more people you meet, the more likely you'll be "in the right place at the right time." And don't just limit yourself to people you know well, the people at the fringes of your network can often provide you valuable information and leads.

Make it easy for people to see that you are qualified to do the job. Successful job hunters are resourceful. They find "experience" not just in their jobs but in hobbies, interests and activities. They find something in their background that will interest an employer; leadership experience from serving on PTA, budget work with a church, administrative experience from volunteering with a nonprofit organization, writing experience from letters to the editor, etc.

Be persistent. Real people get jobs because they want them and then they do the little things to make it happen. They are not scared away by competition, by job qualifications or by their own anxiety. Be persistent in requesting all kinds of interviews; formal interviews, informal interviews, information-seeking conversations, telephone interviews, a thirty-second contact at a career fair, a resumé submitted online or any means of "connecting" with people in the hiring process.

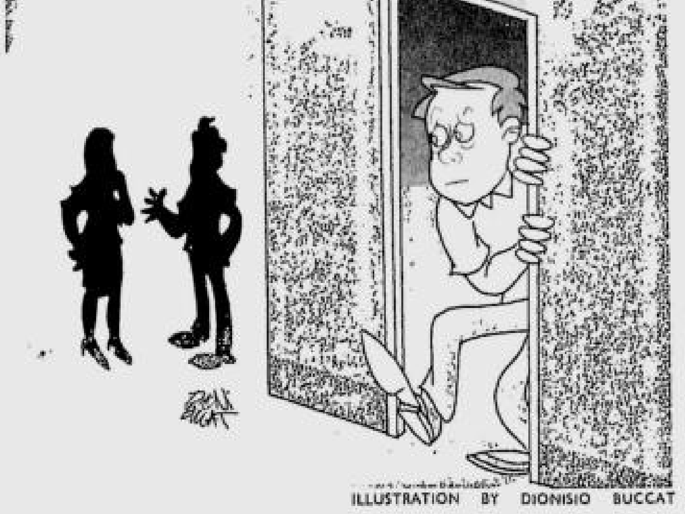


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

And remember the interview is only the beginning of the process, follow up to say thank you. Even if you don't get the job, follow up for suggestions on how you could have done a better job and for leads.

Be positive. Keep an upbeat attitude, no matter what, in your contacts with people in the marketplace. Cry or moan at home, but smile when you are on the streets. This is the most important and the most difficult.

Be prepared for a job search that is longer than you'd like it to be. Take a part-time or survival job, volunteer within your field or at a community based program (make sure it is on your resumé), continue your education with night school or as a part-time student and reduce your living expenses so that you can survive the unpredictability of the job market in the long term. In short, have a life while you are looking for a job, yet make progress toward your goal of getting a job everyday.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which is the most important thing to do when you are looking for a job?

—Make it easy for people to see that you are qualified to do the job, 16.8 percent

—Be positive, 21.6 percent

—Get out and meet people, 26.4 percent

—Be persistent, 35.2 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

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How to work towards your goal p. 6★★

sunday
INQUIRER
magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
January 30, 2005

Celia Diaz-Laurel

The Widow As Chronicler

After 57 years of togetherness, nobody could have written former Vice President Salvador Laurel's unfinished story better than his wife. As Celia Diaz-Laurel prepares to launch the book on her late husband next month, she remembers their life together, and what he did for the country he loved

By Tinna S. Bonifacio
Photographs by August dela Cruz

CELIA Diaz-Laurel recalls her husband's dying words: "You will write my odyssey," Doy had whispered. She had protested. "No! You will get well and we will write it together!" With a faint exasperated smile, he had moved his head from side to side and repeated, "You will write it!"

After his funeral, Celia went through his books, letters, speeches and notes and wove together, like a tapestry, his "odyssey," in his own word.

"Memory," she says, "is frail and evanescent. What we hold precious today fades with each tomorrow. What we say now is soon forgotten. But what is written lives on for generations to come."

A year ago, former Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel passed away due to complications arising from lymphoma, cancer of the lymph nodes. No one felt his absence more actutely than wife Celia, with whom he had spent 57 years of his life.

And yet today finds Celia happy and glowing, as she talks about her latest project, a book about her late husband. Due to come off the press next month, it is a memoir so personal that only a wife who knows her husband's thoughts intimately could have put together.

Simply titled "Doy Laurel," the book covers this Marcos opposition figure's childhood memories (including those of his father, the late former President Jose P. Laurel), the family's life in Japan, the turbulent martial law years, his friendship with Sen. Ninoy Aquino and the post-EDSA years.

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Celia ...*from page 1*

There are dozens of photographs and personal mementos—samples of poetry and diary entries in which Laurel recorded his thoughts about significant political developments in the country, like the move to unify the Marcos opposition, some of which Celia is sharing for the first time with the public.

The last part of the book talks about Laurel's illness and death, and contains some of the eulogies delivered during the memorial services for him. There were five, one each organized by the Nacionalista Party, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Office of the Vice President (OVP), all of which Laurel had served during his lifetime. The eulogies were delivered by some of Laurel's former colleagues, among them Sens. Helena Benitez, Eva Estrada Kalaw, Joker Arroyo, fellow Batangueño Sen. Ralph Recto, Sens. Franklin Drilon, Jun Magsaysay, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales and Sen. Richard Gordon.

Filling the vacuum

For Celia, the book is a way of dealing with the grief she felt at his passing. "Because of the book, I didn't feel the vacuum of his absence so much," she tells SIM. "Every day for almost a year, I was going through his books, papers and photographs, so it was as if he were still around."

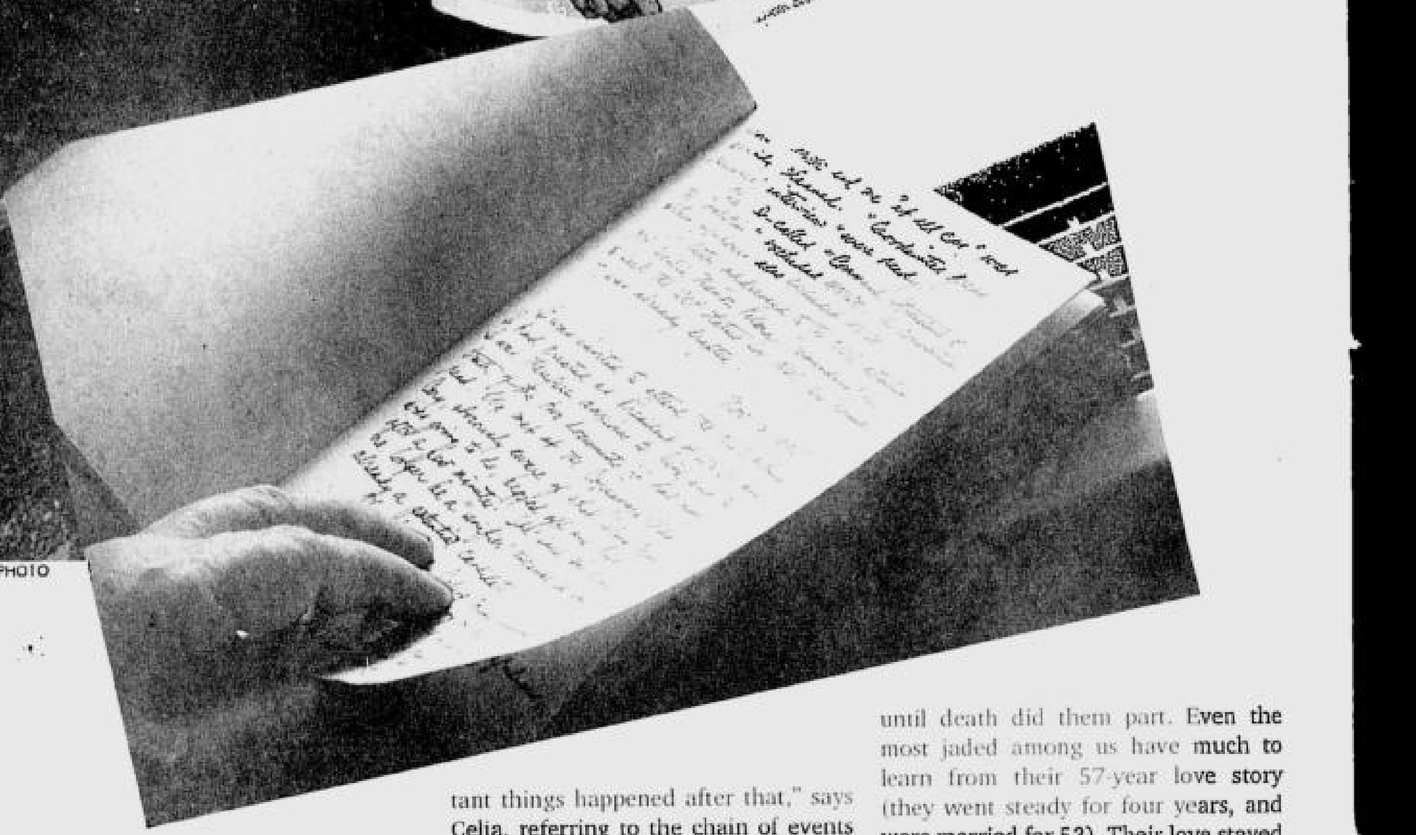
Originally, the plan was to release the book on what would have been Laurel's 76th birthday on November 18, 2004. Then it was moved to January 27, 2005, his first death anniversary. Now—and barring any major hitches—the book should see print on the same month that the world marks Valentine's Day. But that's exactly what the book has been for Celia: a labor of love.

The phrase "kept coming across things" takes on new significance when one hears how the book got written. The story of how Celia came across her husband's diary is best told in her own words. "After his funeral, I was cleaning out his desk and clearing out his medicines to see which ones could still be used so I could give them away. Underneath all the bottles, I found a black, leather-bound notebook, his diary."

The diary picked up from where Laurel's previous biography by the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin left off. The Joaquin biography, "Doy Laurel: In Profile," ends just before the UNIDO convention where Laurel was drafted as the opposition's presidential candidate against Marcos. "A lot of important things happened after that," says Celia, referring to the chain of events that led to her husband giving way to Ninoy's widow, Cory Aquino in the snap elections of 1986.

Celia and Doy: A love that lasted until death did them part

PDI PHOTO



Labor of love: Pages and pages of Laurel's personal notes went into the book "Doy Laurel"

The quote that appears on the first page of the diary seems prophetic: it is a quote from "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, Polonius telling Laertes: "This above all—to thine own self be true."

Although Laurel never really talked about it, says Celia, the diary recounted the story in dramatic, spy thriller fashion and included the names of the political bigwigs who were behind the alleged plot to replace Laurel as the opposition's candidate.

But not everything in the book is about politics and betrayal. Celia also writes of many fun, light-hearted moments starting from when Laurel was courting her. He and Celia met as students at the University of the Philippines. Both were 19, although Celia was several months older. One day, Celia's good friend couturier Pitoy Moreno asked her, "Have you met Doy Laurel?" When Celia answered in the negative, Pitoy shot back: "Oh, but you have to meet!"

It took several attempts before they finally did. Their first meeting would have been at a swimming party held at the house of Fernando Poe, Sr. (FPJ's father) in Del Monte, Quezon City, but Laurel did not show up. At what would have been their second meeting—another party—it was Celia's turn to be a no-show. "My mom didn't allow me," she says.

The third party they attended was an ROTC ball. "A fellow came up to me and asked if I wanted to dance," recalls Celia who, as a corps sponsor, held the rank of Captain. Laurel, who was only a sargeant, had to borrow a pin from someone of higher rank just so he could dance with Celia.

Life-changing

They were already twirling on the dance floor when Pitoy saw them. From the opposite side of the room, Pitoy, who was dancing with a partner, boogied his way clear across the floor and stopped next to Laurel and Celia. With a naughty twinkle in his eye, he blurted out: "So you've met!"

In that single moment, life changed forever for Laurel and Celia. Theirs was a partnership that would last, literally, until death did them part. Even the most jaded among us have much to learn from their 57-year love story (they went steady for four years, and were married for 53). Their love stayed as fresh as it was the day they said their "I do's." The couple has eight children and 19 grandchildren.

To be sure, it wasn't always a bed of roses. "No man is perfect, and we had our disagreements," Celia says. "But we always managed to resolve them because we were willing to understand each other." What did they usually disagree on? Celia recalls how her husband was a very neat and finicky person, especially since he had been trained by his brother, Jose Laurel III, a former ambassador and military man. "From childhood, he had been taught that everything had its place. Meanwhile, because I'm an artist, I'm so *kalat,*" she says with a laugh, "and I don't adhere to schedules. By bedtime, he already had an agenda of what to do the next day, while I wouldn't think about it until the next morning."

She already had an idea what life would be like as a political wife at the onset, Celia says. Besides, she believed in Laurel's causes, and travelled with him all over the country to rallies, and even when he was working for the Citizen's Legal Aid Society of the Philippines (CLASP) to find volunteer lawyers for the indigent. As early as 1967, their children Suzie, Lynnie and Cocoy, then aged 13, 12 and 11 respectively, were already helping their father campaign for a senatorial slot. "My own family was raised on love of country, so I was no stranger to the idea. Besides, if you love and care for someone, you love and care for all of him, including his causes."

Laurel and Celia kept their love alive by writing each other poetry and simple, straightforward love letters. In one, Celia wrote: "To Doy—who faithfully brought me coffee every day for 52 years. I love you. With all my heart, Celia."

Some of those letters and poems will see print in another book that Celia intends to write after this first. It will be more intimate, more personal, almost like a retelling of their love story.

In both books, she says, people will get to know the real Doy Laurel—"his mind, his self, his soul." It is the sum total of the man who was her life, a man who gave the best years of his life to the country he loved almost as much as he did her. Q

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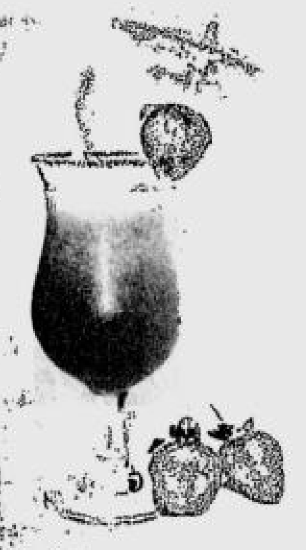


DRINK OF THE MONTH Apart from the usual rum and lime juice, Manila Pavilion Hotel's creative bartenders jazz up the daiquiri with the addition of fresh strawberries. Simply called Strawberry Daiquiri, the drink is available in all of the hotel's dining outlets until February. For inquiries, call 526-1212 ext. 2317. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

pneuma

for lsd

I died twice
when you buried
yourself in my body
skin beneath skin
where all rivers flow
we sing with the sirens
to the eternal sea
undulating
in the most calm
tearing of flesh
rising with orpheus
we bid forgiveness
in this embrace
dark nakedness
robbed of vital breath
we depart
never distant
hurling oneself
against the rocks
in time forgotten

Gary C. Devilles

Empake

Ganito yata talaga,
gusto mo nang umalis
pero waring ayaw daluyan
ng dugo ang paa.
Pumipiyok tuwing magpapaalam,
baligtad ang sinasabi sa umiiral.
Iisa ang ngiti sa ngiwi,
ang ngiwi sa ngiti.
Gusto mo sinsilin sa tingin,
baunin sa memorya ang lahat
ng kayang bitbitin ng pandama.
Ganito nga yata,
waring handa na ang lahat
maliban sa sariling
hindi maempa-empake.

Joselito D. delos Reyes

The **Sunday Inquirer Magazine** accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <poetry_sim@inquirer.com.ph>

A FIESTAmazing Dinagyang 2005

Merry-making in the streets of Iloilo

The Dinagyang Festival honors the miraculous image of the Sto. Niño

Ms. Dinagyang 2005 smiles at the crowd

A festival of colorful merry-making

Buddy FIESTAmazing

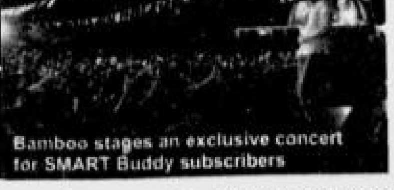
Iloilo is known for the innate warmth of its people, as well as the *malambing* nature of the Ilonggos. Every year, they take to the streets for a week-long fiesta in honor of the miraculous Santo Nino. Flown in from Cebu, the image of the child Jesus is brought to the San Jose Parish for an annual tradition that has its beginnings in the late 60's. Here, at the heart of Western Visayas, the tradition lives on with what is now known as the Dinagyang Festival.

Street dancing from Plaza Libertad to the Freedom Grandstand

Seven tribes compete in the Kasadyahan Parade

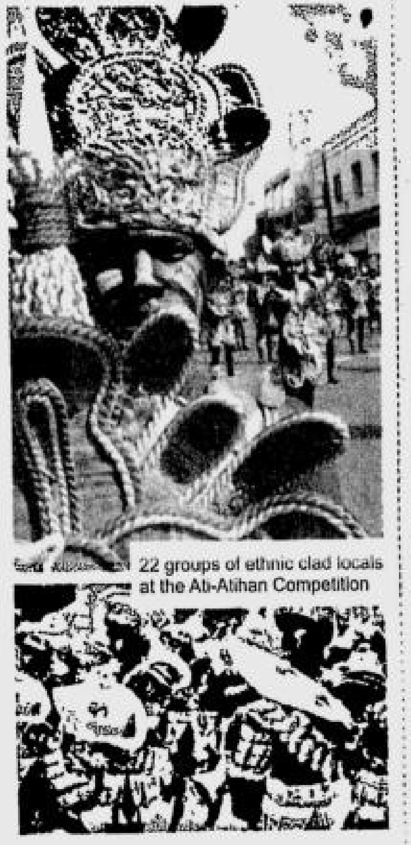
Taking its name from the word "dagyang", which means making-merry, the Dinagyang has evolved into a socio-cultural and religious fiesta. This year, SMART Buddy made its presence felt throughout the festivities by sponsoring events that brought a parade of color to this provincial haven, making it even more FIESTAmazing!

SMART Buddy ties-up with local bars for a more FIESTAmazing celebration



Bamboo stages an exclusive concert for SMART Buddy subscribers

Whether in Iloilo, Cebu, Manila, or wherever you may be, SMART Buddy keeps the celebration going. So, let SMART be your official fiesta partner this 2005 and beyond!



22 groups of ethnic clad locals at the Ati-Atihan Competition

In the highlight event, seven tribes competed in the Kasadyahan Parade, while the Ati-Atihan competition welcomed a whopping twenty-two. From Plaza Libertad to the Freedom Grandstand, the groups traveled the streets showcasing their Ilonggo culture through dance and music. Dressed in ethnic inspired costumes they moved to the beat of this year's theme, "Devotion in Motion: Unity and Peace for Progress".

Indoors, SMART Buddy tied-up with a number of bars and restaurants to present an array of musical performances. Free entrance and drinks were given to SMART subscribers and SIM swappers at Barrack's Bar, 012 Bar and Restaurant, and Tijuana Bar. At the Sarabia Manor Hotel Car Park, Bamboo went on stage for a one-night concert exclusive for SMART Buddy subscribers. Concerts, tours, parties, and exhibits combined to make a one-of-a-kind fiesta atmosphere.

Stylewatch

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes

On Shutter Speed

RAFFY LERMA

Hot young photographer Mark Nicdao found his art in digital photography and fashion. Catch him quick, or you just might miss him zooming past you

THIS man is unstoppable. Literally. He leaps over boulders, dives into hedges and steps mindlessly into pools of lahar, just to get the shot. The perfect shot. The shot that will make readers, hurriedly flipping through the pages of a magazine, come to a screeching halt at an image and say: "Who the hell took this picture?"

Most probably, guys, it's Mark Nicdao, one of today's fastest rising photographers. He did the much-talked about Jen Rosendahl "Dark Angel" spread for Bare Magazine; the *sabungan* spread for Youngstar, and the photos for the coffeetable book "Paranaque," by Bing Carrion Buck. All differently-flavored works that made people take notice of his eye for movement, knack for experimentation and, at least for us in the industry, his quick grasp of an editor's vision for a spread.

Even his demeanor makes you stop in your tracks—and it's not just his bleached blonde hair and naughty boy smile. Arriving at a location, he zips through the locale, pausing at potential spots for layout, clapping and giggling as the storyboard courses through his head. "I know…I'll shoot here…then we'll move here…then out here…" Should you happen to work with him one day, be sure to be quick on your feet and just as quick with your mind. If you aren't, you just might miss one of his ideas. Ah, 'tis a joy to see the unbridled passion of youth in action.

Mark is all of 25 years old and schooled at UP Diliman's Fine Arts college with a certificate in Vis Comm. "*Pero di ko pa alam kung kailan ako babalik*! (I don't know when I'm coming back)" he says, laughing.

Lucky guy

"I guess I'm a lucky guy," Mark says with a big smile, "a very lucky guy. I used to hate photography. I'd get migraines because of the chemicals! But things just fell into my lap."

Those things came in his last year at university, when he was pressed to find a place to intern. A classmate suggested that Mark try out Francis Abraham's Paradigm Studios, so he came with some old photos taken in sophomore class. With no resume and no solid experience in computers, however, and even if Abraham was looking for "an assistant who knew Photoshop," Mark bagged the job.

After a couple of months learning how to set up lights and fiddling with Photoshop, Mark's day of epiphany came: "Mr. Abraham was shooting portfolios for Cal Carrie's models," he recounts, "and he let me hold the camera. After that, I said, 's___t. This is what I want to do. I want to be in control of the camera.'" He laughs giddily at the memory. "I said, oh my God, this is it!"

It was at Paradigm where he was exposed to fashion photography via magazines and little advertising jobs that Abraham let him handle when schedules overlapped.

After two years of apprenticeship in Paradigm, he resigned in 2004 and felt "like it was the end of the world. I didn't have money to buy equipment. It was either I left for the States, where my mom is—she wanted me to become a dentist!—or apply at an ad agency. It was the end."

But photography—the industry and the profession—nagged at him. At an informal gathering of digital photographers, Mark was overwhelmed by the fact that senior practitioners recognized his work. "They knew me! And they helped me!" Photographers like Louie Aguinaldo, Toto Labrador, Jake Verzosa, and Tom Epperson, who would later mentor Mark about film and large format photography, encouraged the young lensman and even lent their equipment. "I'm so happy that this industry is so close-knit," Mark says. "I'm so thankful to those guys who supported me."

Passionate

After a short stint with Epperson, Mark moved onto Edge of Light to help fill in Xander Angeles' photographic requirements while Angeles studied in New York and is currently concentrating on videos and commercials (model turned photographer Joan Bitagcol and Weng Barleta complete Angeles' cooler-than-cool stable of talents).

"He's so passionate about his work and not afraid to try out new things," comments Angeles. "We have the same approach in our work, and the way we deal with people."

It's this relational skill that Mark goes back to when faced with criticism about him "not really being a photographer"—you know, with him being a child of the digital revolution, seldom using film, and all that. He himself declares that digital photography is "my second skin."

He says carefully, "I really don't care that much about what people say because I think it's all about how you present your workmanship, how you deal with people. If you can't deal with the model, the stylist, the makeup artist, you can't come up with good images. And you have to give (your editors) the image they want within the time constraints that we work with here in the country. Abroad, they can work on an editorial for three days. Here, we have to do it in four, five hours. Your professionalism will show if you can work fast and well and if you can get along with the team. I don't think you can say you're a 'photographer' if you can't do that."

During shoots, communication is a big thing for Mark. "I always talk to the fashion stylist, the makeup artist, about the story. Because a fashion editorial without a story is nothing. You have to talk to the editor to know what the magazine's theme for the month is, how she wants the photos to look like. Work is collaboration. And fashion is so much fun to do! *Lahat ng* wild ideas, *lumalabas! Lahat masaya pag* fashion shoot. (So many wild ideas) Enjoy!" Again, his wild laughter.

"Mark has an eye and knows when he's got the shot," says Kitty Espiritu, Mega Magazine's fashion editor. "So for editors with tight deadlines, his quick eye is a relief. He's also a whiz with the computer, so with an easy click, he makes images go from good to great."

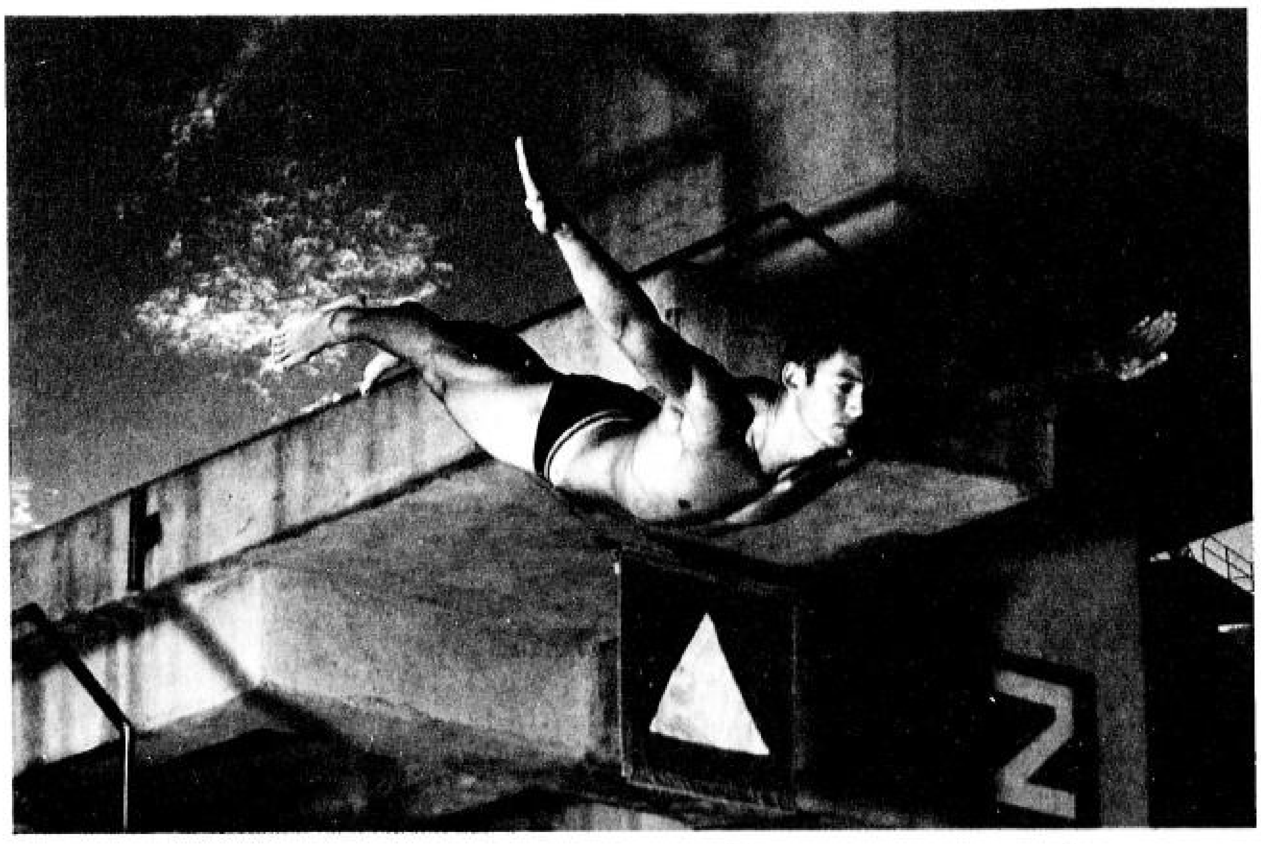
Criticism welcome

"We're all entitled to our own opinions, so *ok lang*," Mark ripostes about his critics. "Sometimes I welcome criticism because at least that means my work is noticed. Anything is better than 'ok *lang*.' Good feedback is still the best, but whether it's a good or violent reaction you get, at least you know it's working. Whatever you're doing, it's working. Love him, hate him, you've created an impact."

Hot new photog trappings aside, though, Mark is still your young turk, bursting with excess energy and desire to settle in his "art."

"Every artist needs a medium," Mark muses. "I used to paint, but I felt it was lacking. I also tried making ads, but sometimes they didn't pass the standards of the client or there are some parameters that you have to follow. I believe photography is the only medium I've tried which allows me to do what I want to do, to express my angst, my depression…so whether it's digital or film you're using, as long as it helps you express what's inside you, that for me is art. It's an extension of you. And art doesn't favor any medium as long as you're happy with what you're doing. If you get to define your existence, you've found your art."

Admittedly, MarkNic still has a lot to learn about his chosen craft. But if his boundless, bursting-at-the seams energy is any indication of his openness to absorbing and discovering what the art—and not just the practice—of photography can give him, then he's in a good place. A place riddled with boulders to jump over, hedges to dive into, and lahar pools to wade in: giddily, ecstatically, just to get the perfect shot. ■



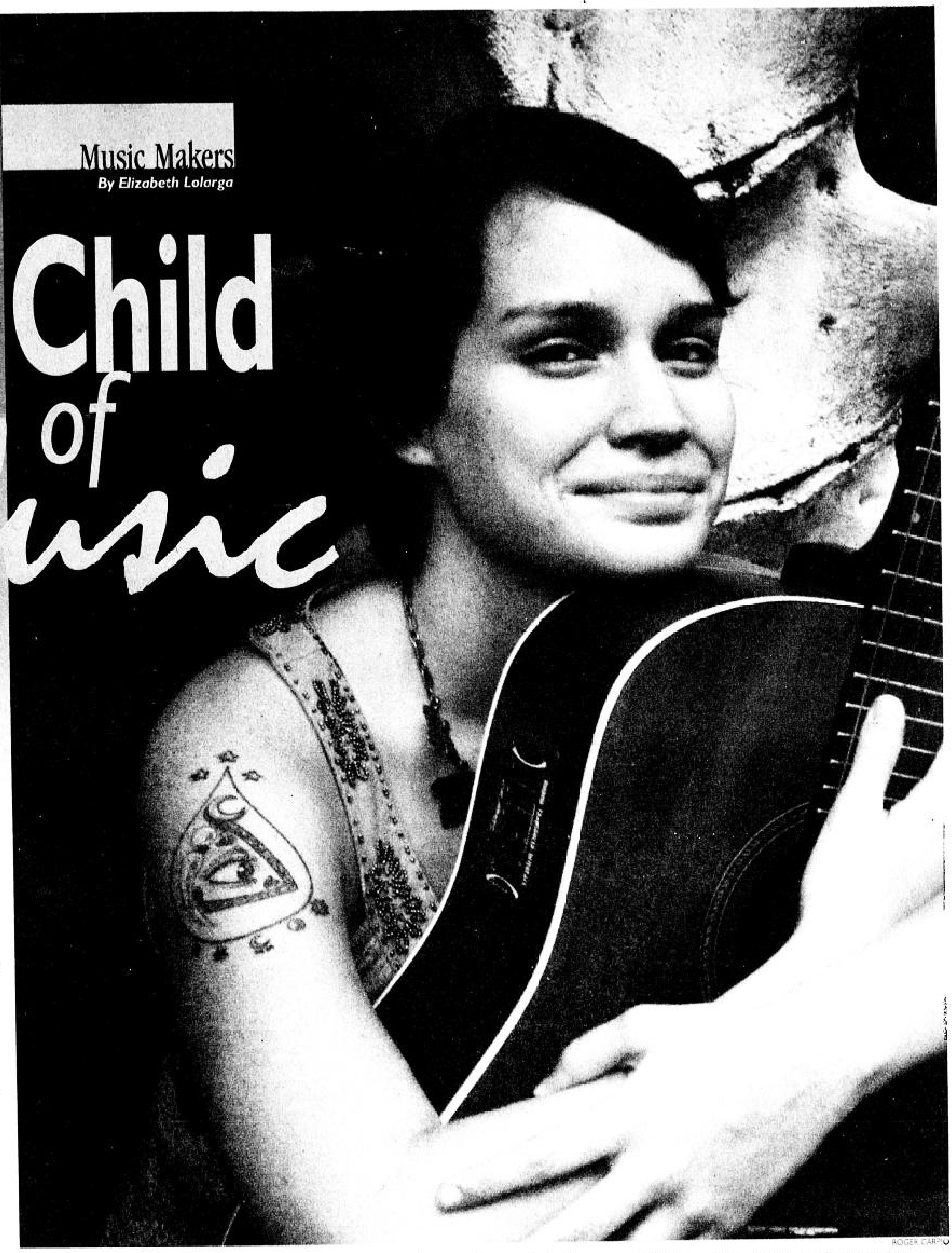
Marc Nelson photographed by Mark Nicdao for Bench

Music Makers

By Elizabeth Lolarga

A Child of Music

With creativity in her genes, poetry in her blood, and a new international CD to her name, singer and earnest jazz student Mishka Adams says her musical journey has just begun



ROGER CARPIO

SOMEWHERE in her youth or childhood, she must have done something good, quotes Mishka Adams in the liner notes of her CD "God Bless the Child" under the international Candid label. Indeed, the past few months have seen Mishka reaping a harvest of opportunities and graces.

The lines "Your daddy's rich and your mama's good-looking" from Gershwin's "Summertime" might as well have been written for her. Mishka, 20, is the daughter of sculptor Agnes Arellano and businessman Michael Adams.

Baptized Michelle Maria Celina, her father had wanted to call her "Michelle," but the mother, forever a flower child, found it too girly. "Why not Mishka?" she suggested.

The girl grew up "with a lot of art," her family's Pinaglabanan Gallery in San Juan, Metro Manila being the hub of top-rated exhibitions in the 1980s.

At age nine, Mishka was packed off to Cumnor House School in Sussex, England, where she finished her elementary and high school. There she started playing the saxophone ("I heard it somewhere and really liked the sound"), her current major at the University of the Philippines College of Music. Her first exposure to jazz was her exposure, at age 10, to a CD of Louis Armstrong's greatest hits that carried duets with Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald. On her own, the preteen sought out these worldly-wise women's covers of jazz standards.

At 13, she joined a jazz trio at King's School in Canterbury that sang at end-of-semester concerts. Mishka remembers being so nervous that her knees shook and she had to take off her high heels ("I never learned to walk in them") and sing on her bare feet. "At least I knew that my feet were planted on the ground," she jokes.

After nine years of commuting between England and the Philippines, she got tired of coming and going. "As soon as you get used to one place, you have to leave it again." She also felt she was missing a lot. Whenever family and friends e-mailed her about gigs and other happenings, she would rue, "*Ay! Wala ako doon* (Oh! I'm not there)."

By the time she came home for good, she was 18 and had finished her A levels, the equivalent of third-year college.

Mishka spent time jamming with the band Spy and pianist Jay Maclean, an Australian. At a Valentine's dinner at Alliance Francaise, Jay accompanied her in singing some French songs. With her knowledge of conversational French and practice of the language's closed, guttural sounds, she was received well.

Not sure what professional training she would undertake, Mishka considered fine arts but eventualy lost interest in it. Then came her culinary arts phase when she watched cooking shows on cable TV and duplicated the dishes in the family kitchen. But her father doused this passion: Why would she want to spend her life before a hot stove?

Blue notes

Music became the more natural avenue of expression, so Mishka's been taking extension classes at UP for a diploma in creative and performing arts. Fellow Blue Notes band member Mike Guevara is also her sax teacher. The other band members are Louie Talan, Budeths Casinto, Ria Villena Osorio, Edgar Avenir and Koko Bermejo. Mishka admits that in the beginning, "it took awhile for us to mesh. I was kind of disorganized. I didn't have sheet music." Today Blue Notes is more set on its aim of bringing other kinds of music together.

The vocalist, who put a refreshing spin on such timeless songs as "Autumn Leaves," "Body and Soul" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," says it's easier to connect with people "if you incorporate a lot of elements (in the music).

"People have biases regarding jazz because of lack of exposure to it," says Mishka. "They box it in and think it has to sound a certain way. I read somewhere that jazz is the freest form of music because it's all based on improvisation and experimenting. It can be anything! And you don't have to be a jazz buff to appreciate us. My only objection to jazz is it gets too intellectual in the way it's approached. I'd rather approach it from the heart."

What she learned from folk music is its simplicity where the message is the most important thing. "The simplest things are the most beautiful," she says. "Everyone can relate to them. For me just to communicate with people is enough."

Her return to learning the sax is partly due to missing it and partly due to a desire to "start seriously learning about jazz. Even if I like it, I don't understand it properly." She has gone into composing, too, putting in her "Mama's Garden," a recollection of her late grandmother's visit to her in a dream. She also wrote "Where Do We Begin," "War of the Skies" and "Marrakech," her impressions of a place fairly untouched by modernity, in her CD.

Composing is a natural outgrowth of the poetry Mishka loves to write. "Writing was a big thing throughout my childhood. Music came in a couple of years ago," she says. She writes her lyrics in a blank book, then strums her guitar to get the chords going for the melody, and "sings whatever comes out of my mouth." Veteran musician Sammy Asuncion helps in the musical arrangement.

More conscious of her vocal gifts after attending workshops with Jacqui Magno and a blues musician from the US, Mishka gave up smoking more than a year ago. She has approached her idols Cooky Chua and Bayang Barrios—"they're like my *ates* (elder sisters)"—to ask them to teach her, but both told her to "just sing, sing and sing. Whatever you do in the house, sing!" She turned to Sandra Lim and Mon David to learn scatting. The other singers she admires (Holiday, Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Eva Cassidy, Stacey Kent) have a common quality she looks for—simplicity of style.

Silver platter

Apart from Mishka, two other Filipinos, Isha and Enrique Marcos, also signed up with Candid, the recording company that's home to Jamie Cullum and Jaqui Dankworth. "Suddenly everything was offered on a silver platter," she says of Candid's discovery of her. "I thought it would take another five years and I'd have to go through the independent route to cut a CD that I would produce myself. I never realized it would be a busy year."

Mishka wears a big tattoo on her upper right arm to symbolize her family members, including boyfriend Ariz Guinto, her album co-producer and sound engineer, and autographs her CD and posters with a crescent moon placed underneath her name. It is a reference to Celina, the moon goddess watching over her journey.

PDI FILE

Pinoy Connection

By Bambi Harper

The Face of Democracy

MRS. NEVREHKA SHARMA has been the Indian Ambassador to the Philippines for the past three years. She joined the Foreign Service in 1971 after graduation from the University of Delhi and has served in Brussels, Paris and Jakarta. In 1990 she joined the Ministry of External Affairs as Joint Secretary in charge of South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). From 1996 to 1999, she looked after India's Technical and Economic Co-operation Program as Joint Secretary in the Ministry. She also served as Joint Secretary responsible for India's relations with South East Asian countries, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island countries. Ambassador Sharma is married, and has two daughters who have frequently visited here. In the light of India's growing economic and strategic importance in the region and recent elections in that country, we get to know the woman who represents the world's largest democracy.

In contrast to the Philippines, the results of the last national elections in India were released a day after the polls closed. Your efficient voting machines were developed by local technology. Would it be possible for India to export these voting machines to the Philippines at prices below that charged by Korea or Taiwan?

NS: The electoral systems in our countries are quite different. In India, a voter has one vote only, and votes for his Congressman or Congresswoman at the national level. Voters in four states only cast an additional vote for their legislative (i.e. State) representative. In contrast, your voters had to vote for a ream of candidates, at the national level and the provincial level, and counting was naturally much slower. This having been said, it is true that the electronic voting machines manufactured in India have given excellent results. If the COMELEC is interested in importing these machines, it can write to the Election Commission of India directly or through the Indian Embassy in Manila.

Why is it that India has been able to establish a democratic transition of power through elections but Pakistan has gone the way of authoritarianism and military takeover?

NS: Democracy has taken root in India. India is the world's largest democracy with 670 million registered voters, stable, vibrant democratic institutions, primacy of Rule of Law, secularism, dynamic civil society, an independent judiciary and a free and vigilant media. Pakistan's evolution since independence, as that of several countries in India's neighborhood, has been the opposite. One explanation may be the disproportionately large size of the Pakistan Army at the time of Partition (1947). This created a "pull" factor for allocating resources towards the Armed Forces, while in India, a conscious effort was made from the very beginning to keep our Armed Forces limited in size and subservient to civilian authority.

> ***Indian Ambassador to the Philippines Nevrehka Sharma is a foreign service veteran who is proud of her country's democratic tradition, and who believes that harmony begins with "people-to-people" interaction***

Do you believe the U.S. war in Iraq is justified? How has it strengthened or weakened the terrorists' mission?

NS: Since the reason for the US war in Iraq, the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, has proved to be unfounded, serious doubts have been raised over the legitimacy of the war. India's Parliament had voted against sending our troops to Iraq because of these ambiguities. Political chaos and social upheaval in Iraq have proved our fears right. Far from suppressing terrorism, Iraq has since become a breeding ground for terrorism.

There are moves to change the government in the Philippines from a highly centralized one to a unicameral parliamentary form under a federal system. Given our tradition of contentious and confrontational politics, do you think this type of system would work here as it has in India?

NS: The switch to a Federal, Parliamentary form of government in the Philippines, or anywhere for that matter, can work but only over a period of time. When we started to rule ourselves 57 years ago, India too did not have a robust system of political parties. Indeed, there was only one political party, the Congress, in comparison to which all other parties were insignificant. Over time, cadre- and issue-based parties came up in opposition to the Congress and eventually, Congress was toppled from its supreme position. Today, Congress is back in power, not by itself but as the largest party in a Coalition. The best thing one can say about Parliamentary democracy is that while it can often be messy, it does widen the base of political power and over time, allows room for growth and improvement.

Power dynamics are rapidly changing in Asia with China making inroads in its diplomatic and economic relations. What role do you see India playing in the region?

NS: India's presence in South East Asia can generate powerful economic forces for good in the region. Culturally, there is in many parts of South East Asia a resonance of India, as India recalls common myths, languages, forms of social organization, cuisines etc. which continue to be recognized in many neighboring countries. Looking ahead, I believe India can also be a model for South East Asia's developing countries in that it is a country of modern democratic institutions, healthy secular traditions, diverse ethnicities and groupings, continuing to grapple with large sections of poverty even as it has an educated and robust middle class which is driving its economy forward very fast, and a leadership which has been able to unite the country and involve all sections in nation-building.

What can India do to help the Philippines narrow the economic divide between the country and its neighbors?

NS: It is essentially through expansion of trade and commerce, and joint ventures in IT and agriculture (including dairy farming), banking and micro-finance, pharmaceuticals and health services, infrastructure (ports, roads, railways etc.) and the food processing sector, that India can contribute to the Philippine economy and vice versa. Bilateral cooperation between us would, in turn, help narrow the economic divide between the Philippines and its neighbors. How investment and trade can spur economic growth is aptly illustrated by the example of the Ispat Group's acquisition of the National Steel Corporation early this year in Iligan. Not only have more than 1,000 Filipinos been re-employed by Global Steel Holding Ltd., a UK-based company of Indian origin, but the company is already contributing to the Philippine economy by exporting cold rolled steel sheets to China. Years ago, investment by the Birla Group in the textile sector had created employment for over 2,000 people; the Indo-Phil Textiles Mills in Bulacan has been widely recognized for its responsible corporate practices, including the commendable charitable work it has been doing among the physically handicapped.

What advice would you give the Philippines so that it can attract more direct foreign investments from Indian investors?

NS: The first and foremost requirement in my opinion would be to start direct flights between the countries. A relatively liberal visa regime on the part of the Philippine government would also promote more direct people-to-people contact, which is required to develop familiarity and understanding which could lead eventually to commercial tie-ups among entrepreneurs and investors. The huge 300-million middle class in India is voracious for a new range of consumer products, and Philippine entrepreneurs should make efforts to know the Indian market. Synergy between Asia's two leading democratic, English-speaking countries, India and the Philippines, can translate into greater peace and prosperity in Asia. We only need the political will to make it happen.

What made you choose Foreign Service as a career?

NS: The Foreign Service gave me the opportunity to travel widely and inquire into different cultures and social systems, which I greatly enjoy and am grateful for.

As a woman diplomat did you encounter discrimination in the Indian Foreign Service? What would you say are the difficulties encountered in the career you've chosen and what advise would you give a person setting out on a similar career path?

NS: India's Foreign Service is naturally embedded in our social practices, which at one level, continue to favor the male. This having being said, I must add that the gaps are being closed very rapidly, and each succeeding generation of women in the Indian Foreign Service has experienced a better and more professional enabling environment or "comfort level" than the previous one.

What would you consider your greatest accomplishment in your stint in the Philippines?

NS: My greatest accomplishment has been to contribute to increasing people-to-people relations between India and the Philippines. There is more travel, tourism, business inquiries and exposure to Indian culture in this country today than there was three years ago when I first came to the Philippines. I believe I have set the stage for a full-fledged visit by an Indian Head of State/Government to the Philippines, a visit which is overdue.

This Week

Art

The artist Malang celebrates his 77th birthday with an exhibition **7 + 7**—seven art works on canvas and seven art works on paper—at the Crucible Gallery, the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A until Feb. 13. For details, call 635-6061.

Mag:net Gallery holds a 3-part group exhibition in its 3 different locations. Titled **Overview: Gallery Artists**, it is curated by Nilo Ilarde and includes works of most artists who have exhibited in Mag:net in the last three years. Part 1 of "Overview" is ongoing at Mag:net Gallery Katipunan (335 AGCOR Bldg. Katipunan Ave, Loyola Heights, Quezon City) until Feb. 8. Part 2 runs until Feb. 15 at Mag:net Gallery ABS, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City. Part 3 runs until Feb. 6 at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas cor Sedeno Streets, Makati City. A series of talks has also been organized to coincide with the exhibitions. For inquiries, call 929-3191 or 435-2631.

"*Pamana*" by Lotsu Q. Manes, on exhibit at Nineveh Artspace

***Isang Litrato Ka Lang*, Images by 50 Filipino Photographers**, a collection of images featuring works by Filipino photographers working in various wire photo agencies, newspapers and magazines, until Feb. 4 at the Third Floor Foyer of the UP Vargas Museum, Roxas Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City. An Artists' Talk with PCP members will be held on Feb. 1, 2:30 p.m. at The Lobby.

Anvil Publishing Inc. and Art Elements Asian Gallery present **Food for Thought**, a two- man exhibit of painting and sketches on food by Egay Fernandez and Gene Gonzalez, Feb. 5, 6 p.m. at Art Elements Asian Gallery, SM Megamall, Building A, 4th Level, Art Walk, Mandaluyong. For details, call 637-5692.

Slit, an exhibit of oil on canvas paintings by Lui Medina until Feb. 8 at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk, Level 4, SM Megamall. For details, call 634-2410.

Music

Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra conductor laureate Prof. Oscar C. Yatco will lead the PPO in **Picturesque Philippines: Music Before the War** on Feb. 4, 8 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. The concert will feature soprano Joan Cano and pianist Reynaldo Reyes in a program featuring pre-war Philippine music. Tickets available at Ticketworld outlets in National Bookstore branches and Tower Records or call 832-3681.

100 Years of Hearts and Hands, a dinner-show with Grace Nono to launch the year-long celebration of the National Network for the Centennial of the Feminist Movement, Feb. 12, 4:30 p.m. at the Gota de Leche Blvd., Sergio Loyola St., University Belt, Manila. For tickets, call 736-9508 or 735-9687.

Celebrate the month of love with a dash of romantic songs featuring two of the country's prized classical artists-tenor Nolyn Cabahug and soprano Ma. Rachelle Gerodias-in a special Valentine's concert, **Love Duets**, at the FEU Auditorium in Sampaloc, Manila on Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The duo will be assisted by pianist Sabrina Villaflor as they render well-loved duets from operas, zarzuelas, *kundimans* and Broadway musicals. Admission is free.

Onstage

Concert at the Park goes Polynesian this Sunday as the Muntinlupa Dance Company performs chants and rituals, hula dance and fire dance of the Pacific Islands at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Tanghalang Pilipino's initial offering for the year is the hilarious comedy of wit and intrigue, ***'Yun Na Nga! (kung 'yun na nga!)***, a Filipino adaptation by Jerry Respeto of Nobel laureate Luigi Pirandello's "Cosi è, se vi pare! (It Is So! If You Think So!)." Playdates are Jan. 30, Feb. 5 and 6 at 3 p.m., Feb. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. at Tanghalang Huseng Batute (CCP Studio Theater). For details, call 832-1125 local 1620.

Dulaang UP will stage Patrick Hamilton's Victorian thriller, **Angel Street/*Lampara*** with a Filipino translation by Jovy M. Peregrino from Feb. 9 to 27 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. The story revolves on Mrs. Manningham's descent into madness due to her husband's attempt to convince her that she is losing her grip on reality. For details, call 926-1349 and 920-5301 loc. 6441.

The Sining-lahi Polyrepertory, the resident student theater group of PUP will be staging **M Butterfly** written by David Henry Hwang with Filipino translation and direction by Rommel Benedicto and with Chinese translation by Chen Guang and French translation by Ligaya Bicomong. To be staged on Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. and on Feb. 8-12 with performances at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Claro M. Recto Hall, PUP Mabini Campus, Sta. Mesa, Manila. For tickets, call Ana (0921-4603481) or Jem (0927-9155403).

Atbp

Videoconference on Information Literacy by Dr. Shalini Urs, director of Information and Communication Division, University of Mysore, India on Jan. 31, 1-4 p.m. A joint project by the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication and the Knowledge Management Association of the Philippines. Free admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call 727-6799 or 724-4564.

"Woman," oil on canvas by Malang, on view at Crucible Gallery

The **12th TravelTour Expo 2005** will be held on Feb. 4 to 6 at the Megatrade Halls 1, 2 and 3 of SM Megamall organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association. There will be a wide variety of exhibitors that include travel agents, tour operators, cruises, airlines, hotels, resorts, theme parks, national tourism offices, government and travel and shops. On Feb. 4, from 1-5 p.m., there will be an Investourism Forum as a side activity to the fair to raise awareness on investing in tourism and to promote various investment opportunities in the country. For inquiries, call 844-5713.

The Communication Foundation for Asia invites all singles to a **forum on Making Choices That You Won't Regret** with Sr. Lily Quintos, RC as resource person. The forum will be on Feb. 5, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the CFA Seminar Room, 4427 Interior Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. Seminar fee is P150. For inquiries, call 713-2732 and 714-7233.

A seminar on Feature Writing for Beginners will be held on Feb. 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ISIS International, #3 Marunong St. (near Phil. Heart Center). Fee inclusive of feature writing book, handouts, lunch and certificate. For details, call 417-1521, 0919-7405199.

The Filipinas Heritage Library will host **Storytelling on Film and Video Workshop** on Feb. 12, 19 and 26, March 5, 12 and 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Workshop fee is P5,500. The first three meetings are designed on the Fundamental Requirements of Story and Storytelling. In the last three sessions, the discussion focuses on mastering the story elements and the principles of story design leading to the first draft of Act One of your scripts. Facilitator is Isabel Enriquez Kenny. Deadline for confirmation is Feb. 4. A 50 percent down payment is required to confirm a slot. For inquiries, call 892-1801.

Rudy Fuentes returns to the mainstream couture through his wedding ensemble as one of the bridal designers in ***May Kasal sa* Forbes Park, A Wedding Fair** on Feb, 5-6 at Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Forbes Park, Makati City. The fair also brings to the public select and quality wedding suppliers. For details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804 or 825-3482.

Dulaang UP stages "Angel Street" at Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater

The **University of the Philippines Film Institute** is now accepting applications to its short **Production Workshops**. Courses offered are: Production Management Workshop (Feb. 11, 12, 18 and 19); Audience Profiling & Ratings Workshop (Feb. 24 to 26); Basic Photography Workshop (March 14 to 19, First Section; April 4 to 9, Second Section); Advanced Lighting Photography Workshop (April 11 to 15); Documentary Photography & Digital Printing Workshop (tentatively April 25 to 30); Basic Video Production Workshop (March 28 to31, April 4 to 8, First Section; April 18 to 22, April 25 to 29, Second Section); Scriptwriting Workshop for Alternative Cinema (May 5, 6, 7, 12 ,13 and 14); Non-Linear Editing Workshop (May 2 to 6, May 9 to 13); 35mm Cinematography Workshop (May 16 to 21); Flash Art & Animation Workshop (May 23 to 27). Participants are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Full payment of fees is required to be assured of slots. Interested parties may call Laisa at 925-0286.

The **Ermita Catholic School** in M.H. del Pilar Street, Ermita, Manila will hold its first **Grand Alumni Homecoming** from Batch 1960 to Batch 2004 on Feb. 19 at ECS Grounds. For details, call Lilia at 524-8134 and Tet at 0917-5295026.

X-manila

Claro de Luna, third solo exhibit of Bayani Ray B. Acala, and ***Tagpuan***, recent works of 16 young award-winning artists, will be on exhibit at Nineveh Artspace, 2452 1st Avenue, Villa Silangan Subd., Sta. Cruz, Laguna from Feb. 5-28. For details; call Louie at (049) 808-6617 or (0916) 772-0368.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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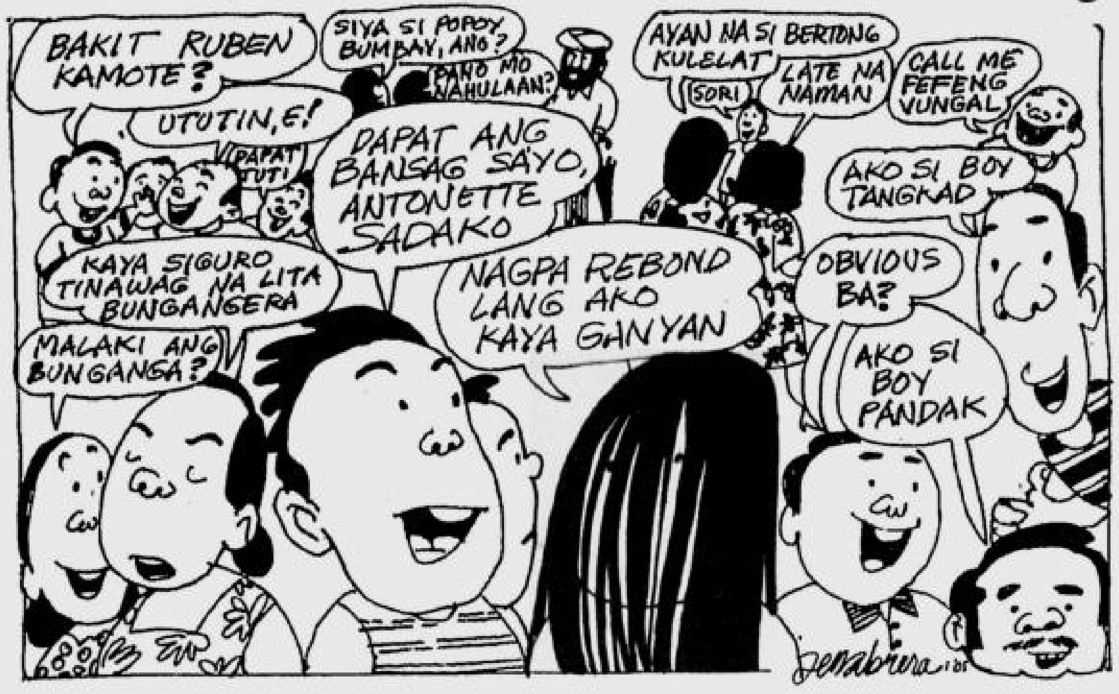
Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Bansag



LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Fight for Him

Am I just a friend? I know I should do my best to keep him. But sometimes I feel like I should be learning to let him go

Dear Joe,

I'm not a very lucky person when it comes to love. I always end up the loser, and I wonder why. My friends tell me that I'm nice and pretty. I met Mark when I was a college freshman and he was a senior. There was this instant connection between us, Joe. It wasn't long before he had my heart. We were always together, and my classmates even thought he was my boyfriend. I can't blame them because Mark acted as if he was. He would wait for me after class and we'd eat lunch together or hang around after school. But Joe, I know the truth. He can't love me because he still loves his ex-girlfriend, Jen. They were together for six years and that's...well, that's six years, Joe. I can't compete with that.

Day after day, my love for Mark grew, but so did the pain of the thought that we can never be what I want us to be. And what hurt me more is that he is a sweet person who treated me as if he felt something for me, too. That's why I couldn't help but wish that he'd eventually forget about Jen and love me instead. I couldn't help thinking, "Why not? That's not impossible!" But wishful thinking does me no good. I can't control him or force him to go my way. And I know all I can do is love him without expecting anything in return.

But I'm not that strong. I had to tell him how I felt, because sooner or later I knew he would find out. At first I just wanted to avoid him, but I knew that wouldn't be fair. And so I had to tell him, through a letter. It was only after two weeks that we finally got things back to normal. It was such a brief time, but it seemed like forever. We didn't discuss anything. We just acted as if nothing happened.

It was nearing the end of the school year, and we both became busy with our own lives, so we hardly had time to see each other. And I started to get used to it. Believe it or not, I began to forget him.

We met again weeks after graduation. We missed each other, and we were back as the same buddies that we once were. Or were we? Something changed, and I'm sure it wasn't me. It was him. He started to be extra sweet, and I wasn't so sure I was comfortable with it. I asked a friend to pretend he was my boyfriend. I told Mark about it, and I felt his change of mood. He felt bad, it was obvious, though he didn't say anything. I knew he was hurt. I thought it over and I realized that I felt guilty because I still love him.

It was after his graduation day that I finally gathered the guts to tell him that I was sorry for what I did, and that I still love him. I thought I was the only one with a revelation to make, but I was wrong. He told me that he also loved me before, but he had to stay away for a time because he didn't want to be unfair to me because of Jen. He thanked me for loving him, and apologized for hurting me. He brought me home that night, and I introduced him to my mom. It started that night, and up to now he's close to my family. I never thought that we'd come to this point. We still are not in any kind of special relationship. He acts as if he's my boyfriend, and I should be happy about it. But it's not healthy because it's painful. We do things that are past our limitations as friends. I know it's wrong, so wrong. It also hurts because he has all the right to date someone else. I can too, but I'm not so sure I want to. And lately, news is spreading that Mark has his eyes on this girl. Her mom even cooks for him, and he spends the night at their house every Friday to do some art work. I know it's not impossible for them to fall in love with each other.

Joe, I love him. And the fact hurts that one of these days, news might come to me, that Mark has a girlfriend already. I love him but I'm not sure if he loves me. I want to ask him how exactly I figure in his life. Am I just a friend? I know I should do my best to keep him. But sometimes I feel like I should be learning to let him go. I don't know if I make any sense, Joe. But please, tell me the best thing to do. Thanks and more power to LoveNotes.

Marie

Dear Marie,

You seem to be giving up a fight which you haven't even started yet. I know sometimes it feels safer to sacrifice what we feel than to be open about it and be rejected in the end. But, as the saying goes, it's better to have loved and failed than not to have loved at all because we were afraid of what it could have brought us.

There are a lot of people who get into the "friendship-with-benefits" kind of relationship. They enjoy the benefits of having a boyfriend or girlfriend minus the commitment that would bind them. This kind of arrangement would work fine for as long as the two are focused on each other. But the moment one deviates his or her attention to someone else, then the imbalance tips the relationship and puts the aggrieved party on the losing end.

Remember, any relationship entails some form of emotional investment. We just can't give up someone without feeling some kind of loss. Marie, you seem like you are giving up on Mark even when you haven't really started seriously talking to him about your relationship. Intimacy is never a stable foundation for a relationship because real relationships are built on feelings and not only physical convenience. You may be enjoying the perks of having a boyfriend but you really haven't been talking about your real role in Mark's life.

This initiative should come from you, Marie. Be prepared for what he has to say. If he truly loves you then you have to do your best to keep him. But if he loves you just because of what you can give him, then you should be thinking more of learning to let him go. Marie, I have always believed in fighting for the people we love for as long as we can within the bounds of reason. If we win it, then it means that we deserve it, but if we lose it then it means it is not for us. Let us always remember that we do not fail when we lose the love that we have fought for. We only fail when we lose the courage to try. Q

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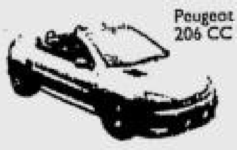

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On The Wings Of Love	Regine	fire6
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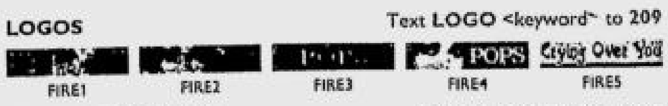

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